

Three Palestinians killed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Unknown assailants killed three Palestinians, including a husband and wife, on suspicion they were aiding the Israeli occupation authorities, Palestinian sources said Monday. Jamil Al Rayak, 45, and his wife, 42, were shot to death at their home in the West Bank village of Beit Nuba. Near the West Bank village of Beit Nuba, the bodies of the couple were found in a field two days after they were killed by unknown persons. Nine people were injured in the West Bank village of Beit Nuba when supporters of the PLO attacked the home of the couple and their car. Arab sources said. Local leaders intervened to separate members of the PLO from the Israeli soldiers and prevent further violence. The PLO is a Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO). Although it is the leading force in the struggle against the Israeli occupation, it has been active since the 1960s. It is a nationalist organization.

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Minister denies Iraq-Syria meeting

BAGHDAD (AP) — Deputy Foreign Minister Nizar Hadoum Monday denied reports that officials of Iraq and Syria, long at odds, have met several times to discuss Turkey's diversion of the Euphrates River that runs through both countries. He was commenting on a report in Kuwait's Al Anba daily Sunday that Iraq and Syria had made their long-standing feud by holding a series of meetings in Damascus and Baghdad on Ankara's decision to cut off much of the Euphrates flow Jan. 15-Feb. 13. Iraq and Syria, ruled by rival wings of the Baath Arab Socialist Party, have been feuding for a decade. "There were no such meetings, neither in Baghdad nor in Damascus... and I haven't been in Damascus," Hadoum told the Associated Press. Iraq and Syria, both heavily dependent on water from the Euphrates for irrigation and hydroelectric power, have warned that the cut-off will cause widespread agricultural and industrial damage. Al Anba quoted Arab diplomatic sources as saying that Iraqi and Syrian officials have met four times in the two capitals in the last two weeks to coordinate their response to the Turkish move.

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Badran receives Iraqi message

AMMAN (J.T.) — Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Nouri Badran Monday delivered a written message from Iraqi Prime Minister Tahsin Ramadan to Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan. Badran, dealing with the agenda of the Arab Cooperation Council summit scheduled to convene in Amman Feb. 24. During the meeting, the prime minister and the Iraqi ambassador also discussed bilateral relations in all areas, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, which reported the meeting, said. It did not give any further details.

Rebels say Iran hid prisoners

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's main opposition group said Monday Iranian civil servants had posed as well-treated political prisoners during a jail visit by a U.N. human rights investigator last month. The Mujahideen-e-Khalq said up to 7,000 genuine prisoners were removed from jail and crammed into railway carriages to hide them from the Red Cross. The group said the deception by civil servants and revolutionary guards took place at Tehran's Evin prison. "The regime set up ping-pong tables and similar equipment in a bid to whitewash the torture and inhuman treatment of political prisoners," the Mujahideen said. Tehran denies torturing prisoners and dismisses charges of human rights violations abroad as a smear campaign.

Thousands attend Khartoum cemetery

KHARTOUM (AP) — Thousands attended the burial Monday of young Sudanese airline pilot who was hanged for trying to smuggle large amounts of foreign currency out of Sudan. It was not immediately known when Ghabr Butros, an assistant pilot with Sudan Airways, was hanged, and the government did not announce the execution. But informed sources said they believed he was hanged late Sunday or early Monday. About 2,000-3,000 members of Khartoum's Coptic Christian community attended the funeral at the church's cemetery in the city center. Security trucks filled with helmeted riot police stood by. But the crowd remained quiet as Butros' body was lowered into the earth, and the mourners then dispersed peacefully. Girls' graves had no headstones, only a cross of red roses and green leaves. Several wreaths were laid on his grave, a mound of dusty Khartoum earth. On Dec. 24, a special military tribunal sentenced Butros to hang after convicting him of attempting to smuggle more than \$100,000 worth of foreign currency out of Sudan.

Thailand sets up task force to find Saudis' killers

BANGKOK (R) — Thai police Monday said they had set up a special task force to find the killers of three Saudi embassy staff members. Police said the 36-man team expected to find the two killers soon. They said one was Thai and the other from a Middle Eastern country. Riyadh banned the recruitment of Thai workers after the three men were shot dead in broad daylight in a busy Bangkok residential area last Thursday. Thai officials said they hoped the ban would be lifted soon. There are 100,000 Thai workers in Saudi Arabia, by far the biggest number of Thai nationals in a foreign country. They said the killings were motivated by a dispute over the recruitment of Thai labour rather than international terrorism.

Quake jolts Pakistan, Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD (AP) — An earthquake measuring 5.7 on the Richter scale jolted parts of Afghanistan and Pakistan Monday, the Pakistan meteorological department said. There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage to property. The earthquake hit northeastern Afghanistan and northwestern Pakistan, according to an announcement by the department in Peshawar.

King said to have promised 'general political amnesty'

By Ghadeer Taher
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein has promised general amnesty for all political prisoners and has asked Prime Minister Mudar Badran to expedite the process of their release, according to several members of Parliament and cabinet ministers.

The promise was made during a visit by the King to the General Headquarters of the Armed Forces Sunday, accompanied by members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, said Amman Deputy Faizal Kawa.

Recommending the exchange, Kawa told the Jordan Times that he and fellow Amman Deputy Saifuddin Murad approached the King during the visit and raised the issue. The King agreed with their view that bureaucracy was delaying the process of release of political prisoners, Kawa said.

"We told the King that red tape was hindering the process," said Kawa. "The King agreed with us and promised a total amnesty for all political prisoners in Jordan," said the newspaper columnist who was elected to the Christian seat in the Third District of Amman in last November's elections to the Lower House.

Several senior officials and deputies confirmed that the King later told the prime minister to settle the issue of political prisoners as quickly as possible.

The King's promise and directive to the prime minister came after the government released all political detainees — meaning those who were held without trial — and indicated that it was studying the cases of those already tried and convicted of political and security offences.

No precise number of political prisoners was available, but informed sources said that there were at least 60 to 65 people held at the Swaga prison, serving sentences ranging from two years to life after they were found guilty of charges of "affiliation to an illegal political organization and plots against national security."

In another development, a 24-year-old resident of Fuhais was released last week after spending six months of a four-year sentence for affiliation with a political party, a family source said. Munir Sulaiman Alkroush and another young man also from Fuhais were arrested in early August when they were found in possession of underground leaflets, the source said. The two were charged with the now defunct 1953 law on combating Communism, apparently the last case in which the law was applied before being abolished last month, according to the source. Alkroush was sentenced to four years in prison but his co-defendant was ordered released by the military court in December, the source said. "The case was reviewed last month and Alkroush was ordered freed," added the source without giving details.

Political observers have been predicting a general royal amnesty for political prisoners in Jordan ever since Badran's government assumed office in December. "It seems that the government had been too busy with the vote of confidence session in Parliament, followed by the debate on the draft budget (which was endorsed Saturday) to take up the issue and expedite the process of releasing convicted political prisoners," said an observer.

Jordan urges joint Arab action against Soviet Jewish influx

TUNIS (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi Monday called for an Arab agreement to take collective action on the international level to deal with the influx of Soviet Jews to Palestine. Qasbi, representing Jordan at the Arab League Committee for the Support of the Uprising, said Israel was trying to make "strategic gains, build settlements, absorb new immigrants who threaten Arab security and Arab order."

Qasbi reiterated Jordan's full support for the uprising and for the Palestinians' political action to regain their rights in the occupied Arab territories. "Jordan shares the suffering of the Palestinian people on a daily basis," Qasbi said.

Jordan, he said, will do its best to maintain support for the steadfastness of the Palestinian people. Jordan's decision to sever ties with the West Bank was designed to boost Palestinian action, he said. "Jordan is not a substitute homeland for the Palestinians."

Palestine President Yasser Arafat delivered a speech reviewing the developments in the Palestinian scene and the current situation in the occupied territories. He also shed light on the contacts the Palestinian leadership recently held with the Soviet government with regard to the Soviet Jewish immigration to the occupied territories.

Egypt hunts bus assailants

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt Monday hunted masked assailants who attacked an Israeli bus and Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid pledged not to let the attack derail Middle East peace efforts.

Security sources said police launched a nationwide hunt for the men who stopped the bus about 60 kilometers from Cairo Sunday and attacked with machineguns and grenades, killing nine Israelis and wounding at least 16. Two Egyptians were also killed.

At least two groups claimed responsibility, the previously unknown Organisation for the Oppressed in Egypt's Prisons and Islamic Jihad.

Police Monday questioned the Palestinian driver of the bus, security sources said.

They said police were investi-

gating possible collusion between the driver of the bus and the driver of the white Peugeot 505 used to ambush it.

The sources said both men were Palestinians from the Rafah area, straddling the border with the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said that Middle East peace efforts must continue despite the attack.

But Sunday's ambush appeared to strengthen hardliners challenging Shamir's leadership of the rightist Likud party and turned the Israeli public mood against peace talks with Palestinians.

Israel went into mourning for the victims. Air force planes flew survivors and the dead home from Cairo.

Shamir told parliament: "We will continue in our way, steadfast in our belief, doing all we can

for our security and for the advancement of peace, real peace, peace with security..."

The Likud secularist earlier postponed a crucial central committee meeting, set for Wednesday, at which Shamir had vowed to defeat hardline rebels led by Trade and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon who oppose his plan for Palestinian elections.

Abdul Meguid condemned the attack and said Egypt would do its best to find those responsible. "This attack forms a challenge to the peace process but we are ready to face this challenge and continue the work to reach stability and peace in the area," he told reporters.

He said he was still ready to attend a meeting with his U.S. and Israeli counterparts to prepare for Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo.

"We must make every effort to push the peace process and continue what we started six months ago," he said, adding that he believed U.S. Secretary of State James Baker was also keen to press ahead.

Egyptian investigators' discovery, in the Nile river Delta north of Cairo, of the white Peugeot Sedan used in the attack, and the claim of clues to the attackers, could dispel the sense of unease.

Police denied rumours that three suspects were arrested. The previously unknown Organisation for the Oppressed in Egypt's prisons, claimed responsibility shortly after the attack, said it was to retaliate for alleged torture of prisoners in Egyptian jails.

But a statement issued by President Hosni Mubarak said the ambush was "directed primarily

against the struggling Middle East peace moves. He denounced it as "a monstrous aggression."

Another statement from Egypt's Interior Ministry said two gunmen who raked bus passengers with automatic fire and hand grenades "spoke in a non-Egyptian accent."

A Palestinian group Monday broadcast what it said was a recorded statement by one of the assailants.

"I say to the Zionists... kill one of us and we will kill 1,000. We will follow you to the moon. You will not escape even if you go to moon," said the statement transmitted by Al Quds radio.

The station is run by the Damascus-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) (Continued on page 5)

King sends invitation to ACC summit

IRO (Agencies) — Minister of Information Ibrahim Izzeddin Monday delivered an invitation from His Majesty King Hussein to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to attend the summit of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries in Amman Feb. 24.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, in Cairo, Izzeddin said he also conveyed King Hussein's views to Mubarak on the latest Arab developments and listened to the views of the Egyptian leader.

"We are passing through a very delicate stage," Izzeddin said. There is great concern about Israel's settlement plans and Soviet Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine," Izzeddin said.

Asked whether the ACC summit in Amman will discuss urgent issues facing the Arab World, he said: "There is a defined agenda based on the ACC ministerial committee meetings held in Baghdad recently. When the leaders meet, it is natural that they would discuss all developments in the Arab arena."

Izzeddin added that he discussed with Egyptian counterpart Sawat Sharif means to consolidate scopes of mutual cooperation, including exchange of programmes on a larger scale.

Izzeddin, who arrived in Cairo early Monday, told reporters that he would also visit Baghdad and Sanaa with the King's invitations to their leaders to attend the Amman summit. Izzeddin left Cairo later Monday.

President Mubarak, President Saddam Hussein of Iraq and North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh will join King Hussein for the two-day ACC summit, the fourth since the ACC was founded a year ago. The rotating presidency of the ACC would pass from President Hussein to King Hussein for a year.

The ACC leaders would ratify more than 20 cooperation agreements and discuss such Middle East issues as immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, according to an official quoted by Reuters.

PLO condemns attack on bus

TUNIS (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Monday condemned the attack on Israeli tourists in Egypt and said it showed the need for faster progress towards a peace settlement in the Middle East.

The PLO news agency Wafa, in a commentary by its political editor, said the attack Sunday could not be treated as an isolated incident.

"We would like to recall that hundreds of Palestinians in the occupied territories are being killed or wounded daily. This killing and terrorism is at the hands of Israeli officials, not at the hands of people so far unknown and who have no connection with the PLO," it said.

"The bus operation is an incentive for all parties to commit themselves to peace more than at any time in the past... the time has come, in the face of the daily killing of Palestinians and of the Israeli bus incident, for balanced U.S. intervention to hold an international conference for a final and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict," it added.

"As long as that (peace) is not achieved, violence will remain master of the situation and the region will remain an explosive powder keg ready to blow up peace

Gorbachev tells party to accept pluralism

MOSCOW (Agencies) — President Mikhail Gorbachev said Monday that parties other than the Communist Party could eventually be created in the Soviet Union, the official TASS news agency reported.

Gorbachev told a key meeting of the Communist Party Central Committee that political pluralism was growing in the country. "This process can lead to the creation at some stage of parties," TASS quoted him as saying.

His landmark speech came a day after perhaps the largest protest in Moscow since the Bolshevik Revolution. At least 200,000 impassioned citizens paraded through the streets to the Kremlin, demanding that the government embrace reform and end control of the government.

The party "intends to struggle for the role of ruling party, but do it strictly in the framework of the democratic process, rejecting any kind of legal or political advantage," Gorbachev said.

The party will "present its own programme, put it out for discussion, cooperate with other public-political forces," the Soviet leader said. TASS, in the first official details released of the meeting, reported that Gorbachev urged the party to move up the next Com-

Aoun mounts massive assault on Geagea

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Rebel General Michel Aoun's tank-led troops were reported Monday to have smashed into a Beirut stronghold of the rival Lebanese Forces militia, tightening the noose around warlord Samir Geagea's seaside headquarters after a week of war.

Geagea has vowed that his militia, with 6,000 hardcore fighters and several thousand reservists, will "resist unto death... to end the dictator's reign of terror" in the predominantly Christian enclave north of Beirut.

Witnesses in the hills above Beirut's mainly Christian eastern sector, reached by telephone from Cyprus, said fighting was raging inside the working class 'Ain Rummaneh district south of

the Karantina quarter where Geagea has his command post. Aoun's paratroopers secured the key coastal town of Dbaye, eight kilometers north of Beirut Monday, the day after they seized it force hand-to-hand combat.

The Lebanese Forces conceded that its 80-mm Dbaye garrison, outgunned and outnumbered, had been overrun and made a "tactical retreat."

Police said 59 soldiers and militiamen were killed, including nine of Aoun's officers, in Dbaye, with another 70 wounded.

Police said at least 277 people have been killed and 1,037 wounded since the fighting erupted Tuesday. Among the casualties were 30

people killed and 117 wounded by shells that exploded in west Beirut, outside the combat zone.

Aoun was now poised for what was widely seen as a final two-pronged assault on Karantina by his estimated 19,000 troops from the north and through 'Ain Rummaneh.

Police said Aoun has regrouped his armour on the northern and northeastern flanks of Beirut's eastern sector for a make-or-break assault.

The maverick general's forces apparently broke through the militia defences in 'Ain Rummaneh after a two-day slugging match on the fringes of the Lebanese Forces stronghold that lies along the green line dividing the capital.

The U.S. ambassador to Syria, Edward Dorrigan, blamed Aoun for the carnage, castigating the maverick general's "personal quest for power" and urging him to "step aside."

A three-man mediating committee representing Maronite Catholic Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir called a ceasefire for 2:15 p.m. (1215 GMT). But it collapsed like six earlier truce accords.

A Lebanese Forces communiqué charged that Aoun's forces mounted a large-scale attack on 'Ain Rummaneh "at the very moment the ceasefire was slated to start. Pitched battles are raging."

Aoun's command blamed the

Despite reduced majority in vote on budget, government can continue to count on House support

By Mariam M. Shakhin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament's approval of the 1990 budget Saturday gave the government a majority of 52 votes — enough to pass the draft budget law but considerably less than the 65 votes which the government received in the House's vote of confidence on new year's day.

The reduced majority could be explained by shifting alliances and patterns of voting by the 80 deputies, but not by any solid indications that the government is losing its solid support in the House, according to deputies and parliamentary observers.

For one thing, the Muslim Brotherhood deputies were given a free hand by their leadership to vote whichever way they wished on the budget, said the official spokesman of the Brotherhood Bloc, Abdul Latif Arabiyat.

Although the 24-member Brotherhood Bloc had given the government unanimous vote of confidence on Jan. 1, with the sole exception of Sheikh Abdul Minem Abu Zant (East Amman), only 18 members of the bloc voted for the draft budget Saturday. Four Ikkwan deputies opposed the budget and two abstained.

"We had agreed to vote as a bloc in the vote of confidence in January because our demands

were met in a satisfactory manner," said Arabiyat. "This time it was up to the individual members to vote whichever way they wanted. We consider that the vote on the budget is not equivalent to the vote of confidence in the government. Rather it is a vote for a law, nothing more nothing less."

The four Ikkwan deputies who voted against were Sheikh Abu Zant, Humam Saeed (West Amman), Mohammad Abu Faris (West Amman) and Ahmad Kofaneh (Irbid). Those who abstained were Ali Hawandeh (East Amman) and Mohammad Al Haj (Zarka).

"I have not asked any of our bloc members why they abstained or why they voted

against the budget. But whatever their reasons may be, they are not likely to clash with the broader Brotherhood platform," Arabiyat said. "As far as Sheikh Abu Zant is concerned, he failed to vote with the agreed stand during the vote of confidence in January and since then he is his own spokesman. He is still a member of our bloc, however," he added.

Ikkwan deputies who opposed the budget said that the draft law was traditional and did not sufficiently address the country's economic woes, including demands they themselves made. Some of these demands included: all foreign debts and loan agreements be cancelled

immediately; payment of alms (zakat) be introduced to pay back the country's debts; investigations of all officials who were ever in a position to misuse public funds be undertaken; salaries of low income groups be indexed to the cost of living; and Jordan's natural resources be exploited and utilised at a more rapid pace.

Maverick member Sheikh Abu Zant said democracy meant that each Parliament member votes according to his conscience. "I voted against the budget because it does not give the citizens the economic rights that Islam gives them," Abu Zant said. "It does not address

(Continued on page 2)

Sudan allows relief plane to land in Juba

NAIROBI (R) — The Sudanese government allowed a plane carrying relief food to land Monday in the besieged southern city of Juba after twice turning it back to Nairobi last week.

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) said its C-130 Hercules carrying 15 tonnes of Italian maize finally landed Monday morning and returned to Nairobi to pick up a second load.

"Everyone seemed very happy to see the plane again," said Bob Koepf, LWF's coordinator for relief operations in southern Sudan.

Sudan's military government suspended all relief flights to the south on Nov. 3 after air force bombers began raiding rebel-held towns in the region. It announced an easing of the ban on Jan. 24.

The government specifically authorised LWF to resume flights to Juba from Nairobi. But when LWF's Hercules tried to enter Sudanese air space Thursday and Saturday it was turned back.

Koepf said there seemed to have been an administrative misunderstanding because Sudanese air traffic controllers had not received the aircraft's registration numbers.

Juba's population has swelled to about 300,000 due to an influx of 200,000 refugees from the seven-year civil war in southern Sudan.

The government-held town, besieged by the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), relies on an airlift for survival. No food aid has reached it overland since September 1988.

LWF maintained an irregular supply of food to Juba during the ban by chartering a Sudan Airways Boeing 707 instead of using its own plane. Sudanese planes were exempt from the ban.

Koepf said LWF, the only relief agency flying food into the besieged city, hoped to continue chartering a Sudanese cargo jet to supplement the twice-daily flights by its Hercules.

He said latest reports indicated that there were about 400 tonnes of food stocks in Juba, rather more than earlier thought.

The Sudanese government has also promised to let the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) resume relief flights to both government and rebel-held areas in the south.

Sudanese jets bomb Ugandan town

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — A Sudanese Air Force plane killed

five civilians and seriously injured six others in a weekend bombing of a northern Ugandan border town, the official radio reported Monday.

Radio Uganda quoted the Defence Ministry as saying an aircraft bombed Moyo, 480 kilometres north of Kampala, early Saturday. Moyo is 16 kilometres inside Ugandan territory.

"Uganda views these unprincipled conflicts as diversionary and totally useless," the ministry said.

The broadcast said Ugandan authorities had invited the Sudanese ambassador and the military attaché in Kampala to visit Moyo and see the damage caused by the bombing.

It was the second bombing of Moyo in three months. The first attack on Nov. 15 killed three civilians and injured eight.

Sudanese authorities denied their aircraft was involved in that bombing.

The SPLA fighters frequently seek sanctuary in northern Uganda.

Alleged incursions in Uganda by Sudanese troops have increased tension between the two countries. Early last month, President Yoweri Museveni and the Sudanese leader, Lt.-Gen. Omar

Ethiopian rebels seek talks on relief mission

NAIROBI (R) — Rebels in northern Ethiopia have asked to meet aid agencies to discuss a stalled famine relief mission into their stronghold province of Tigray, where starvation threatens some 800,000 people.

The Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) said in a letter to the World Council of Churches it wanted to meet representatives of Ethiopia's Joint Relief Partnership (JRP), a consortium of church aid groups, in Khartoum Thursday to discuss the plan.

"The proposed meeting will give an opportunity for the discussion of all means of enabling aid to reach the drought and famine affected areas," the Feb. 2 letter said.

"We are ready to meet, discuss and explore all ways and means which would ensure aid reaches the people in need," the rebel group said.

The Ethiopian government on Jan. 18 said it had approved a plan for the relief agencies to truck food across military lines to three towns in northeastern Tigray.

But the scheme, which the government has said could be extended to other areas of the

province, has been held up by the lack of an agreement between the aid groups and the rebels on how it will operate.

"The government says 3.4 million people will need food aid in northern Ethiopia this year following last year's severe drought, 800,000 in rebel-occupied Tigray."

Yilma Kassaye, head of the government's relief and rehabilitation commission Friday accused the TPLF of dragging its feet over the across-the-lines food distribution plan.

"The rebels have no compassion for the affected people and are trying to politicise the issue," he said.

But TPLF spokesman Tewelde Gabrit said the delay in agreeing to the plan had been due to difficulties in communicating with rebel commanders in the field.

The TPLF has been fighting Ethiopia's Soviet-backed government since 1975. It overran the whole of Tigray province last March and later in the year advanced southwards with its ally, the Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement, to capture large areas of Gondar, Wollo and Shoa provinces.

Gunmen abduct 2 doctors in Sudan

KHARTOUM (AP) — Gunmen abducted two doctors in the southern city of Malakal and kidnapped two European physicians of a Belgian medical mission who live there, a senior official of the relief agency Medecins Sans Frontieres said Monday.

The official, who refused to let his name be used, said the gang also has abducted several Sudanese from Malakal, capital of Upper Nile region, 670 kilometres southwest of Khartoum.

Drs. Tine Van Haegenborgh, 27, of Antwerp, Belgium, and Martin Ruppert, 29, of Rotterdam, Holland, were taken at 11 p.m. (1900 GMT) Friday night, the spokesman said.

Two other Belgians working with the Belgian wing of Medecins Sans Frontieres, or doctors without borders, and two foreigners working with the International Committee of the Red Cross went ahead and flew out on a Red Cross evacuation flight.

GCC, Japan discuss cooperation

RIYADH (AP) — Officials from Japan and the Gulf Cooperation Council began meetings at GCC headquarters Monday to map future political and economic cooperation.

The meeting, led by Japan's Deputy Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada and the GCC Secretary-General Abdullah Bishara, came as efforts are being stepped up to bolster relations between the Asian giant and its major oil suppliers.

The GCC delegation includes representatives of the six member states that make up the alliance — Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman.

The GCC is an 8-year-old quest for a common market of the Arab states of the Gulf, who sit on more than 40 per cent of the world's proven oil reserves. The other major oil reserves are in the United States and the Soviet

Union.

More Tokyo delegations have been showing up in the Middle East of late. Japan already imports more than two-thirds of its oil from the Gulf, which also includes Iraq and Iran as well as the GCC countries.

But various international oil studies have been pointing to increasing consumption rates in Japan and elsewhere in the industrialised world, and to increasing dependence on Gulf oil as other sources taper off.

A GCC spokesman said the meeting was to deal with "a number of political and economic topics that contribute to bolstering joint cooperation between the two sides, led by trade, investment and transfer of technology."

The same official also said the meeting was part of a series the GCC secretariat was conducting to foster cooperation with various

international economic blocs.

The GCC countries seek to break away from being mere exporters of crude oil into developing sophisticated industrial bases with the help of the most advanced technology they can secure worldwide.

They also are geared to developing integrated oil industries from oil well to the retail end through joint ventures with the major consuming centres.

Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Hisham Nazer returned home this weekend from his first official visit to Japan in pursuit of that objective.

Additionally, officials in the GCC countries have been harping on the theme that without becoming a strong economic bloc on their own, they will not be able to stand in a world that will soon see other blocs solidified with the birth of a united European market in 1992.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children's programmes
15:50 News summary in Arabic
16:05 Local programme
16:10 Agricultural programme
16:15 News in Hebrew
16:20 News in Arabic
16:25 Local programme
16:30 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Lucifer
18:10 Des Chiffres Et de Lettres
18:20 L'Apprenti
18:30 News in French
18:35 Aujourd'hui en Jordanie
18:40 News in Hebrew
18:45 News in Arabic
18:50 Mr. Belvedere
19:00 Mother Love
19:10 News in English
19:20 Hunter

PRAYER TIMES

06:04 Fajr
06:22 Sunrise
11:59 Dhuhr
14:31 Asr
17:17 Maghrib
18:36 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swedish Tel. 810740.
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 637285, 635326.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 617577.
Terrence Church Tel. 622366.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Assiout Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 623543.
Assiout Orthodox Church Tel. 771351.
Assiout Catholic Church Tel. 771351.
Assiout International Church Tel. 623543.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811235.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815317, 65932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be partly cloudy and scattered showers of rain are expected in the afternoon. Winds will be westerly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Sharjah ruler removes brother

DUBAI (R) — The ruler of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates has formally sacked his successor an older brother who briefly deposed him two and a half years ago.

But neither the official Emirates News Agency (WAM) nor radio or newspapers in the other six Emirates making up the UAE federation have reported Sheikh Abdul Aziz's dismissal as crown prince and deputy ruler of Sharjah.

Sharjah ruler Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qassimi issued a decree read on television in the small Emirate of Sharjah Sunday evening.

"We hereby abolish the decision which named Sheikh Abdul Aziz as crown prince and deputy ruler of the Emirate of Sharjah," the television quoted the decree as saying.

The ruler's older brother has been living in Abu Dhabi, the biggest and wealthiest of the Emirates, since his coup attempt failed on June 17, 1987.

Abu Dhabi supported the Sheikh's coup attempt and has not commented on the decree ousting him from the immediate

line of succession.

Sheikh Abdul Aziz moved to Abu Dhabi's Al Ain oasis city after the UAE's Supreme Federal Council approved Sheikh Sultan's request to expel his brother a year ago, political sources said.

"At that time, the council had decided that it was an internal matter for Sharjah but there were differences (among the ruling families) on how to announce the move," a source close to the Sharjah ruler told Reuters.

In June 1987, citing an economic crisis in the emirate, the third largest of the seven and a seaport, Sheikh Abdul Aziz took over the ruler's court with the emir's guard. He accused his brother, who was then in London, of mismanaging Sharjah's revenues.

Dubai, the neighbouring emirate and the second largest in the UAE, immediately exerted strong pressure to prevent him keeping power and persuaded Abu Dhabi to agree that Sheikh Sultan should return, diplomatic analysts said.

But as part of the agreement, Sheikh Abdul Aziz was named crown prince and deputy ruler.

The rulers of the seven emirates have for years tried to avoid public disagreements in the interests of political stability. The military coup presented them with a serious rift in the fabric of the federation.

The ruler's decree said the decision "crowned the praiseworthy efforts of (UAE President and Abu Dhabi ruler) Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan Al Nahayan, ended estrangement, and served the general interest" — an apparent reference to the year-old agreement.

The political analysts said that after the coup attempt Sheikh Sultan kept his brother away from real power.

Diplomats said Sheikh Abdul Aziz appears to have settled down to managing his estate and breeding camels in Al Ain.

Sharjah, which exists economically under the shadow of the big trading centre of Dubai, has a debt of well over \$1 billion, owed mostly to local banks.

Unlike Abu Dhabi and Dubai, Sharjah has limited reserves of oil and gas and arguments over management and development of these resources was a major factor in the coup, analysts said.

UAE concerned over Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The United Arab Emirates Monday voiced concern over the influx of Soviet Jews into Israel and said it would make Israel more obstinate over a Palestinian settlement.

Like neighbouring Kuwait a day earlier, it urged the Soviet Union to stop the flow in the name of the friendly ties that link Moscow to the Arab World.

A cabinet statement said "the UAE cabinet follows with extreme concern the continuation of emigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine, a fact which embodies the Israeli policy of settlement and annexation of Palestine land."

The Jewish state is sometimes still referred to as occupied Palestine in Arab statements, but it could also be a reference to the Israeli-held West Bank and Gaza Strip which are generally designated by the Arabs as "occupied for the Palestinians" under a "future Arab-Israeli settlement."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said he expects some 300,000 Soviet Jews to settle in the West Bank and Gaza Strip over the coming few years.

Moscow, in line with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's new policies, has recently relaxed some restrictions on the emigration of the Soviet Jews, while the United States has tightened its immigration regulations.

Middle East peace talks are still deadlocked mainly because Israel refused to deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) which insists on representing the Palestinians at any peace forum.

"The cabinet believes this influx will make Israel more intransigent in denying Palestinian rights to regain their lands and set up their independent state," said the UAE statement.

The statement urged "all concerned parties, foremost the Soviet Union which has friendly ties with Arab states and is linked

with them with mutual interests, to take steps to halt the flow of Soviet Jews."

"The immigration (into Israel) represents a flagrant aggression against the rights of the Palestinian people and obstructs peace efforts aimed at achieving a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East," it said.

The cabinet denounced what it called Israel's repressive measures against the Palestinian people and their uprising in the occupied territories and said this violated all international norms and laws.

In Kuwait, a statement issued after the Sunday weekly cabinet session chaired by the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, also described the influx as "flagrant aggression."

Italian envoy dies in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Italy's ambassador to Lebanon, Antonio Mancini, died of a heart attack at his residence in east Beirut during ferocious battles between rival Christian forces, officials said Monday.

They said Mancini, in his sixties, died Saturday. He had suffered heart problems for a long time and was due to retire soon. President Elias Hrawi cabled condolences to the Italian government.

Government can continue to count on House support

(Continued from page 1)

the country's debt situation, nor does it address the unemployment problem in a feasible manner." He stressed that the government's stress on developing the city of Amman undermined decentralisation, which he felt was a necessary step towards economic recovery.

Democratic Bloc

As for the 10 member Democratic Bloc, the vote was more even, albeit less planned. Nine of its members voted against the budget while only one, Karak Deputy Mohammad Faris Tarawneh, abstained. It was the first time since the bloc was formed last November that the majority voted "almost in union."

"We did not agree to vote in union. It just happened that all of us were not satisfied with the budget," said one of the bloc's deputies who did not want to be identified.

In rejecting the budget proposal, the bloc's deputies cited inadequacies in the budget's approach to revenues, tax exemptions, policies on foreign

and local debts, unemployment, deteriorating living standards, and said the government's subsidy policies were more oriented towards the "well off" instead of the "poor."

Although some members of the bloc indicated last week that a split within the bloc was taking place among leftists and pan-Arabists, the united stand on the budget issue subdued such schism, at least for the moment. The bloc was divided during last December's debate on the vote of confidence with some voting against the government while others abstained.

Two members of the Democratic Bloc, who are members of the Financial Committee, were criticised during the Lower House sessions for not making any objections while reviewing the budget as members of the Financial Committee.

The two, Bassam Haddadin (Zarka) and Deek Marji (Irbid), joined their bloc members in voting against the budget.

Democratic Bloc member Saleem Zoubi (Ramtha) and Bani Kanana, who voted against both confidence in the

government and the budget draft law, told the Jordan Times in an interview: "Those who voted against the budget, but not the government, did so for tactical reasons. During their campaigns they had openly spoken out against the country's agreements with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the London Club and Paris Club. Since the budget included those agreements, the least those deputies could do is to stick to their economic platform and oppose the budget that included the accords as they had promised their constituents."

Hussein Mujalli (Irbid) told the Lower House Saturday that the vote on the budget was tantamount to another vote of confidence in the government since it was a vote for or against the government's financial programme.

The two other blocs in parliament, the 23-member National Bloc and the eight-member Independent Bloc, voted unanimously in favour of the budget.

They had given the government a solid vote of confidence on Jan. 1. Saturday's vote by the two blocs came as a surprise

to some observers since the two blocs were rumoured to be falling apart earlier last week and the split was expected to show in the voting pattern.

Islamists and non-aligned

Islamist Deputy Laith Shbeilat (West Amman) and fellow Islamist Yacoub Qarash (East Amman) voted against the budget. The two had levelled strong accusations at the government in speeches last week criticising the budget for its inadequacy to meet the

country's needs. While Shbeilat did not give the government his vote of confidence on Jan. 1, Qarash did.

Renowned critics of the Badran government Thougban Hindawi (Irbid) and Ahmad Owaidi Abbadi (Amman) also voted against the budget. Both had not given a vote of confidence to the government.

Two other deputies who are not members of any of the parliamentary blocs and gave a vote of confidence to the government, voted against the budget. They were Marwan Hmoud and Hisham Sharara.

Aoun mounts big assault

(Continued from page 1)

beleaguered Lebanese Forces in 'Ain Rummaneh for breaking the truce.

Civil defence workers and firemen used the relative morning calm to recover decomposed corpses, many of which had lain in cars or on the streets since Wednesday. Firemen battled fierce blazes in the industrial area of Zouk Mosbeh.

Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss, in a message to east Beirut residents, said: "We are all with you, sharing your grief, anger, worries and sorrow. We will spare no effort to ease your sufferings and rescue you from the crisis."

He described the rival Christian forces as "beasts and executioners murdering their people."

In an apparent reference to Aoun, who refused to accept the authority of President Elias Hrawi's government, Hoss added: "The rope of rebellion is short. Doomday is imminent."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

AMMAN

Dr. Amr Al Ashhab 602507

Dr. Jamal Abu Bakr 746426

Dr. Wael Fathi 748000

Dr. Isam Abu Rique 681967

Yacoub pharmacy 649445

Farid pharmacy 778316

Al Asasa pharmacy 637055

Nasrath pharmacy 626672

Al Salim pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 649445

St. Joseph's pharmacy 637669

St. Mary's pharmacy 637669

St. Michael's pharmacy 637669

St. George's pharmacy 637669

St. Andrew's pharmacy 637669

St. John's pharmacy 637669

St. Paul's pharmacy 637669

St. Peter's pharmacy 637669

St. James' pharmacy 637669

St. Mark's pharmacy 637669

St. Luke's pharmacy 637669

St. Anthony's pharmacy 637669

Jordan Electricity Authority

Electric Power 63681

Company 63681

RJ Flight Information 06-53200

Qatna Air Tel. Airport 06-53200

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 630941

Crime Prevention 630941

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 996390

Public Security Department 630921

Complaints 843402

Police Complaints 630900

Police Complaints 630900

Water and Sewerage 891467

Complaints 891467

Amman Municipality 767111

Telephone Information 630921

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone 623101

Abdullah Telephone 661101

Jordan Television 773111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Dr. Walid Haneesh 983417

Khalil pharmacy 983417

Dr. Amr Al Ashhab 602507

Dr. Jamal Abu Bakr 746426

Dr. Wael Fathi 748000

Dr. Isam Abu Rique 681967

Yacoub pharmacy 649445

Farid pharmacy 778316

Survey finds rising number of beggars

AMMAN (J.T.) — A survey conducted by the Ministry of Social Development has revealed that the number of beggars in Jordan is on the increase and that 66 per cent of the beggars in the Kingdom started the profession at the age of 15.

The survey found that Jordan had 256 beggars in 1980, 1,020 in 1983, 505 in 1984, 602 in 1985, 672 in 1988 and 543 in 1989, the Jordan News Agency, reported Monday.

Although the figures might not be 100 per cent accurate, the statistics reached by the survey indicate the number of beggars is high in proportion to the population of Jordan, a statement issued by the ministry said.

The survey showed that most of the beggars are above 25 years of age and that 10 per cent are juveniles, around 15 years old, and that most of the beggars took to the streets at an early age.

The highest number of beggars was found in Amman, which accounts for 58 per cent, followed by Irbid (15 per cent) and Zarqa (9.3 per cent).

This ministry statement said that nearly 18 per cent of the beggars were driven to the profession by poverty, and nearly 15 per cent came from broken families while the rest turned to begging because of mental or health problems or because of old age.

'Own homes'

Most surprisingly, the survey found 43.9 per cent of the beggars own homes. Others live with relatives and only 4.7 per cent live in shanty homes, and 10.3 per cent are homeless, according to the survey.

The study found that 19.6 per cent of beggars picked up from the streets by the concerned authorities proved to be receiving uninterrupted salaries from their work in civil service or pension, and 21.7 per cent receive only monthly income from their relatives but most of the rest belong to families whose members are unemployed.

Only 15 per cent of the beggars can be classified as "old" and have been seeking aid from the



Begging, a rare sight in Amman's streets a decade ago, has become an increasing phenomenon, according to a recent survey conducted by the authorities (J.T. file photo)

concerned authorities, according to the survey. It said that 28 per cent of the total number of beggars said that they were quite happy in their status and 47.7 per cent realise that begging was a crime punishable by law.

The Ministry of Social De-

velopment said it had been striving to combat begging in different forms and ways and had established homes for beggars and old in Karameh and Um Al Asaker, and was operating offices in Amman, Zarqa and Irbid to discourage begging. It said it was cooper-

ating with the Public Security Department to remove all beggars from the streets.

The ministry, said the statement, is also trying to give proper training to beggars to qualify them for jobs to earn a living.

Ministry selects toxic waste dump areas

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Rural Affairs and the Environment has designated areas away from urban and rural areas to serve as dumping grounds for poisonous and dangerous waste, Minister Abdul Karim Al Dughmi said Monday.

He said areas were selected by specialised teams who have now drawn up designs for the pits where the waste would be dumped and ordered off to prevent any human, agricultural or animal contact with them.

Jordan has many factories which turn out dangerous waste, some of which has reached rivers and streams. Many households also cause pollution to the environment by throwing away used batteries and other waste material which can only endanger public health safety, the minister said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Technical teams have studied the geological hydrological and other aspects of the dumping

ground to prevent any leakage of chemicals or poisonous materials to underground water resources, and the dumping areas lie far away from bedouin settlements and wadis or agricultural lands, the minister said.

Arrangements are being made to divide the dumping grounds into several sectors and to fix dates for dumping material, Dughmi added.

In his statement to Petra, the minister said that Jordanian laws prohibit the transportation of chemical or dangerous materials on the Kingdom's roads and highways without specific instructions on handling such substances.

Jordan was one of 110 countries that signed an international agreement on controlling the process of dumping dangerous waste at a meeting held in the Swiss city of Basel on March 20, 1989.

The agreement is bound to help protect the world's environment and provides for cooperation among Third World nations to combat pollution and protect

the environment from toxic waste and other harmful chemicals.

The minister said that Jordan would never allow any toxic material to be dumped in the country at any cost and the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment had already submitted to the Council of Ministers a proposal to declare Jordan a toxic free zone.

Last November, a five-day regional consultation meeting on control and disposal of hazardous waste was held in Amman with the participation of delegates from 11 countries.

The seminar, organised by the Amman-based Centre for Environmental Health Activities, reviewed problems related to the increase in the amount of waste material stored, transported or disposed off in the Arab countries. The delegates reviewed problems related to chemical safety and issued a set of recommendations about precautionary measures to minimise dangers of toxic materials.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

Senate meets today

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) will convene Tuesday to discuss recommendations issued by its Legal Committee. The discussions, to be held in the presence of Prime Minister Mudar Badran and cabinet members, will also cover several temporary laws such as those dealing with the cancelled law on the occupied territories affairs, amended laws of the Armed Forces, and amended general administration law, and a licensing law of Amman.

Lower House panel endorses law

AMMAN (Petra) — The Legal Committee of the Lower House of Parliament has endorsed a law related to ownership of flats and floors after incorporating several amendments. The House's Health and Environment Safety Committee also met and discussed health laws. The House's Administrative Committee will hold a meeting Wednesday to discuss several complaints and proposals.

World Bank to help cooperative training

KARAK (Petra) — Dr. Nelson Amara, a World Bank representative, Monday visited Karak in southern Jordan and was briefed on the activities of the local cooperative organisation office and cooperative societies in the area. In a statement to Petra, Amara said that the bank would offer loan and technical assistance to Jordan totalling \$20 million over the coming three years to help train Jordanians on cooperative projects.

Taffieh housing problems discussed

AMMAN (Petra) — Housing Corporation Director Youssef Hiyasat Monday visited Taffieh and discussed housing projects in the area. Hiyasat and Governor Khalaf Mahameed discussed housing problems in Taffieh.

Driver training centre opened in Zarqa

AMMAN (Petra) — The Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) has opened a training centre for motorcar drivers at Al Hashmiah in Zarqa. The centre's director, Yahya Saoud, said the JD 150,000 centre has facilities for training motorists on auto maintenance and facilities for theoretical lessons.

Aqaba centre trains seven in underwater photography

AQABA (J.T.) — Seven trainees from the United Kingdom and Kuwait Monday completed a training course in underwater photography from the Royal Diving Centre (RDC) in Aqaba.

RDC Director Allen Colclough told the Jordan Times by telephone that the centre, which was established in 1986, offers training in underwater photography, skin diving and all other fields related to diving.

Training courses are offered to Jordanians and non-Jordanians alike as well as tourists who visit the port city, he said.

Located 15 kilometres away from Aqaba town on the southern beach, the RDC was inaugurated by His Majesty King Hussein during celebrations on his birthday in 1986 and its name was

thus changed from "international diving centre" into "Royal Diving Centre", operating under the control of the Aqaba Region Authority (ARA), Colclough said.

While offering courses for all those interested and beginners, the RDC hopes to help boost the tourism industry in the Aqaba region, Colclough added.

He said training in diving and underwater photography had been given to local policemen, Jordanian doctors and tourists visiting the Red Sea port.

He said training courses run for five days and entail using diving gear and other equipment — all of which are provided by the centre — located in the midst of the tourism area on the south beach.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ A plastic art exhibition which includes paintings, sculptures and ceramic works at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of photos of plays directed by Chereau, Mesguch, Mouchkine, Pischon and others, at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An architectural exhibition by Ja'far Tougan at the Jordan University of Science and Technology.

CONCERT

- ★ A concert by Arab Nigham Orchestra at the Philadelphia Hotel — 8:00 p.m.

LECTURE

- ★ Slides about the works of the Jordanian artist Tawfiq Al Sayed at the Goethe Institute — 7:00 p.m.

FILMS

- ★ A programme on Fred Astaire at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.
- ★ Documentaries at the Soviet Cultural Centre — 5:00 p.m.

Ministry adopts 5-day week for special education schools

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Social Development has decided to follow the example of the Ministry of Education and adopt five-day weeks for its special education schools with immediate effect.

A ministry statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that all schools giving special education run by the private or public sector will have Thursdays and Fridays as holidays beginning February 1990.

The ministry surveyed parents and students about the two-day weekend and studied the social and economic needs of students before adopting the decision, according to the statement.

The Ministry of Education in-

itiated the two-day weekend for its 3,600 schools since September and increased daily school hours by 45 minutes to make up for the loss of school hours on Thursdays.

In its statement Monday, the Ministry of Social Development said a similar plan was adopted for the special education schools, which cater to slow learners and the handicapped.

Under the new system, Thursdays will be dedicated for sports and extra curricular activities, school trips, training courses for parents of the handicapped, courses for the illiterate adults and other useful activities, the statement said.

At the same time, the extra day off every week will allow special education teachers to work out plans and programmes for training and improving their standards, the statement added.

All special education schools in the Kingdom which used to have one day off a week will comply with the new regulations except those that are still forced to do two-shift days for lack of sufficient school buildings.

According to the Ministry of Education, 150 of its two-shift schools still have one day off on Fridays, but this system will be abolished and all schools will have two days off once sufficient buildings have been made available.

Prospects reviewed for produce exports to Britain

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prospects for exporting Jordan's agricultural products were discussed at a meeting here Monday by Minister of Agriculture Salehman Arabiyat and British Ambassador to Jordan Anthony Reeve, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Petra said Arabiyat and Reeve also reviewed agricultural cooperation between the two countries and prospects for Britain supplying Jordan with equipment to spray pesticides against locusts in the southern regions of Jordan

helping the Kingdom apply an agricultural insurance system and supplying the Ministry of Agriculture with mobile veterinary clinics and increasing training courses for Jordanians in Britain to help boost livestock wealth in Jordan.

Also discussed at the meeting was Britain's help in assisting Jordan to protect its lands from desert locusts. Britain had supplied Jordan with equipment to spray pesticides against locusts in the southern regions of Jordan

last year.

Workshop ends

Agricultural insurance in Jordan was discussed in a two-day workshop organised in cooperation with the West German technical cooperation agency.

The workshop, which ended Monday, discussed assisting farmers through an insurance system in times of drought, floods, frost fires and locust invasions.

Amman gathering emphasises role of media in thwarting Israel's 'Jordan is Palestine' scheme

Round-table probes ways to counter Soviet influx

By Sana Altiyah
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine has caused Israel to resurrect, promote and implement the theory that Jordan is Palestine, a threat that has become a subject of serious discussion in Jordan, where interested groups are trying to find means of countering the threat.

In a meeting at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) Sunday evening, journalists and intellectuals agreed that one of the most important means to counter the Israeli theory that "Jordan is the solution" for Palestinians was through the media.

The open meeting discussed ways in which the media can tackle the issue and promote the dangers of Soviet Jewish immigration to the occupied territories.

It was agreed by the speakers and audience that the media should counter the Israeli theory in terms of concentrating on the human rights violations such as expulsion of Palestinians from the occupied territories, and highlighting the right of the Palestinians in the diaspora to return to Palestine as a human rights issue.

"The role of the media is not just to criticise the Soviet Union for allowing Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel and to demand that the United States should absorb the two million Soviet Jews and to stop aid to Israel. Instead, the media should concentrate on educating the Arabs and the world at large that Arab rights were violated and that it was Zionism that usurped the Palesti-

nian land," said Randa Habib of Radio Monte Carlo and the French News Agency (AFP).

Habib said that with 14,000 new Soviet Jewish immigrants arriving in Israel last year and 4,585 in December 1989 alone, the West considers the Soviet move as part of the human rights and public freedoms given to the Soviets with Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika reform programme.

"But there is complete disregard of the fact that there is a Palestinian population which the Zionists have evicted (ushered) in the ugliest form of human rights violations of the century," Habib told the audience.

She added that although the Soviet government had warned Israel against settling Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Israel responded by saying that the immigrants could settle wherever they wish.

Habib went on to say that it was expected that Israel would settle hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews in the territories occupied in 1967. "In fact, 11 per cent of the new immigrants now reside in Arab Jerusalem and its suburbs," she said.

"This naturally means evicting the Arab population from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and pushing them to the east of the Jordan River, implementing the Israeli theory that Jordan is Palestine," Habib explained.

She added that Israeli diplomacy and media were trying to implant the idea that international opinion agrees with the idea of Jordan is Palestine,

and had succeeded in convincing some Western elements of this fallacy.

"But the question is: Are the Arab moves of a level that can counter great danger that threatens our causes and people? No. With the exception of Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the reaction of Arab countries is still generally weak," Habib said.

Through the role of the media, she added, the world must learn that despite the special relationship between Jordanians and Palestinians, Jordan is not Palestine but Israel is Palestine.

'Unlimited' threat

Saad Hattar, also from the AFP, said that it was obvious that the Israeli policy was not only aimed at Palestine and Jordan, but the whole Arab World.

"When Israel talks of 'eretz Israel' (greater Israel), the intention is (to create a Jewish state) from the Nile to the Euphrates River. Therefore, the whole Arab World must counter the threat against their land, people and existence," Hattar said.

He added that in order to counter the Israeli threat there must be a strong unified Arab support of the Palestinian intifada "to ensure its strength and continuity and to enable the steadfastness of Palestinians on their land."

Hattar also emphasised the need for a unified Arab position to pressure the Soviet Union and the United States to halt the Jewish immigration to

Palestine.

"The Arabs must make the Soviets and Americans realise and understand that this move has serious implications on the security and stability of the region and the world at large," Hattar said.

Jordanian-Palestinian unity

For Mazen Saket, a candidate in last November's parliamentary elections, the way to counter the threat of Israel's implementation of the Jordan is Palestine is through deepening Jordanian-Palestinian unity.

"Deepening our unity, protecting it and ensuring its continuity is the basic solution to facing Israeli plans," Saket said.

He predicted a possible Israeli scenario: another Arab-Israeli war leading to Israel occupying Jordan, mass transfer of Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, or creating a "new Lebanon" in Jordan.

Saket added that Arabs must use the Zionist plans to their advantage and utilise the international sympathy which the intifada had gained on the basis of human rights not "historic rights."

"If we use the Zionist policies to our advantage, their plans will fail. If we concentrate on highlighting the fact that when the Arabs changed their slogan of throwing the Jews into the sea the Israeli position did not change," Saket said.

Writer George Haddad, who also ran in the parliamentary

elections, said there was no difference between Jordanian and Palestinian.

"The Palestinian cause is an Arab one; Palestine is for the Arabs," Haddad said, after reviewing the history of Arab unity. He mostly concentrated on the importance of Arab nationalism and criticised Jordanian-Palestinian "jingoism."

After the speakers gave their views on the subject, the public participated in providing possible solutions to the problem, which reflected views from the extreme left to the extreme right.

A moderate view was espoused by Al Dastour chief editor Mahmoud Al Sharif, who said that the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) can promote the reality that Jordan is not Palestine.

"With our support and funding, the ADC, with its 250 branches in the U.S., is capable of promoting and educating the American public, especially in high-density cities, on Israel's violations of Palestinian human rights and eviction of Palestinians from their homeland," Sharif suggested.

Another member from the audience said that it was "ridiculous" that 200 million Arabs are fearing two million Soviet Jews, and said that "we must utilise the Arab population to confront the Israelis and their plans."

One suggested that five million Arabs force their way back into Palestine, and that Palestinians in the diaspora, especially in the West, to return to Palestine to increase the num-

ber of Arabs in the occupied territories to confront the Jewish immigrants.

Another man called on the Jordanian government not to accept Palestinians from the occupied territories into Jordan, and went as far as saying that the bridge dividing Jordan and Palestine be closed off. (He later came under heavy attack from others present at the meeting.)

Another solution presented was for efforts to convince Arabs everywhere that Palestine is Arab and Muslim land, then to announce a "jihad" (holy war) against Israel. "This is the only solution to deal with an authority who claims to be civilised but is actually very primitive and brutal with our children and people in Palestine," according to this argument.

RCC Director Iyad Qattan said that he was not convinced by any of the solutions suggested by the different political trends presented at the meeting. He called for another meeting next Sunday "to truly find means which we can use to solve this problem."

He suggested that parliamentary committees should be formed to tour the world and promote that Jordan is not Palestine and that Israel is Palestine.

Qattan noted that he had invited to the meeting 25 deputies from the Lower House of Parliament, 10 senators and 10 ministers, none of them attended. "How are officials expected to solve this problem in Parliament if they don't even want to discuss it here?" Qattan angrily asked.

street robberies, broke into homes and stores.

The statement also cited one of the cases in which an old man and a woman were apprehended after being caught trying to peddle fake jewellery.

Anabtawi laid to rest

AMMAN (J.T.) — The body of Dr. Munir Anabtawi, who died in Geneva last Thursday, was laid to rest in Amman Monday. His Majesty King Hussein delegated Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin to convey his condolences to the Anabtawi family.

Irbid police nab 115

IRBID (Petra) — The Irbid Police Department Monday reported the arrest of 115 people, including 56 juveniles involved in robberies committed last month.

A police statement said the detained persons had committed

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Learning from the S. African experience

IT TOOK the racist regime in South Africa many decades to come to its senses and accept to deal with the legitimate representatives of the black South African people. Likewise it took the indigenous people of that country countless years of struggle to begin the long road towards dismantling apartheid. Still, the surrender of Pretoria to the voice of reason which culminated in lifting the ban on the African National Congress (ANC) and other South African liberation movements is truly a historic event and a remarkable landmark for democracy, liberation and self-determination.

The imminent release of ANC leader Nelson Mandela after 30 years of imprisonment is a strategic triumph not only for the blacks of South Africa but also for mankind. As the peoples of the Arab World also celebrate this momentous occasion and achievement, they will surely draw parallels between the situation in South Africa and the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It is obvious that the analogy between apartheid in South Africa and Zionism in Palestine is too clear to be ignored. It follows therefore that the implications of the historic achievements of the blacks in South Africa on their brethren in the occupied Arab territories are also clear and loud. The immediate reaction of the Arab World to the success story of the black intifada in South Africa was to challenge the Israeli regime to learn from the experiences of Pretoria and its new experiment to engage the lawful representatives of the blacks there directly in a real dialogue and begin the process of dealing directly with the PLO in a serious and genuine effort to resolve the Palestinian conflict. Surely, the Israelis know deep in their hearts that the PLO to the Palestinian people is what the ANC is to the South African blacks. Yet, must Tel Aviv wait 30 more years before it see the light of day and accept the inevitable peacefully and swiftly or choose instead to have the two peoples go through the agonies and death and destruction of many more decades before duplicating the belated wisdom of the South African government? The Israeli people owe it to themselves to face up to the natural course of history without sustaining many more years of warfare. The Palestinian leadership is ready and able to engage them here and now in meaningful dialogue that could lead to fruitful negotiations. Like their brethren in South Africa, the Palestinians have chosen their representatives and the sooner the Israeli government lifts its ban on talking to them the better it would be for all concerned, especially the Israeli and Palestinian peoples alike.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Monday dealt with King Hussein's address to parliament and cabinet members who visited the army headquarters on Sunday to inspect the work of the armed forces and to be briefed on their duties and responsibilities. The paper referred to the King's statement that the Arabs cannot confront and overcome the dangers and the challenges if they fail to carry out a joint effort and collective action. King Hussein has warned that the dangers posed by the common enemy are directed to the whole Arab Nation and not to Jordan alone; and therefore a joint Arab effort is needed to save the Arab order, the paper noted. The meeting at the army headquarters at which the deputies were briefed on the armed forces responsibilities came to put the representatives of the nation face to face with the facts about the common enemy, Jordan's endeavours and the real challenges the Arab Nation is facing, the paper continued. Having obtained a clear idea about the situation, the paper noted, the deputies expressed hope that the Arab countries will come to the aid of Jordan, providing the Kingdom with all possible assistance in the face of an enemy threatening all Arab states.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily questions the efficiency of Greater Amman Municipality's engineers, and road workers and cites the Tlaa Al Ali-Khulda road as an example. Fakhr al Kawar says that the team of engineers and road workers have been working on a seven-kilometre stretch of road for the past eight months, but so far they have completed work on half of the road. Motorists commuting along the road on a daily basis continue to suffer from the road pits and diversions all the time and hope against hope that the workers will soon end this ordeal to no avail, the writer says. Kawar asks, given this slowness in work, how long will it take the same group to build a road from Mafrqa to the H-4 area in the desert region. The writer says that such a group could take up to 30 years to build the Mafrqa-H-4 road which is just 200 kilometres long. Kawar calls on those interested in public works and the municipal council to look into the affair, and to do something about the unnecessary delays in construction work.

Sawt Al Shabah Arabic daily on Monday tackled Syrian-Iraqi relations in the light of reports about a meeting between officials from the two countries to find a solution to the Euphrates River water. The paper expressed hope that the reports are true and said that this could signal a new phase in bilateral relations which have been strained for many years. The paper recalled Jordan's mediation to bring about reconciliation between the leadership in Baghdad and Damascus; and said King Hussein has been very active in his endeavours to end the differences between the two Arab neighbours. The hope is now revived, thanks to the common threat represented by the shortage of river water needed by the two countries' agricultural sectors, the paper noted. The paper said that the common threat has united Damascus and Baghdad; and it is hoped that the common threat to the whole Arab Nation represented by the influx of Jews in to Palestine could also unite the whole Arab Nation.

The outlook for Jordan's economy

By Riad Al Khouri

ECONOMICALLY things in Amman are still very much up in the air. This may be fun for economists and writers, but it isn't making businessmen happy. Although a few sharpies can make killings in topsy-turvy economic situations, for the majority of businessmen as well as the economy as a whole, uncertainty hinders investment and growth.

According to pundit Faded Faneek in an article published last December: "Jordan's main economic indicators are currently registering positive results."

The economy is closer to desired objectives, after a long period of going fast in the wrong direction. Things are still slow, although Faneek added that during 1989 "imports were reduced

and exports increased; Central Bank reserves rose; the exchange rate of the dinar improved; the budget deficit narrowed; and industry, agriculture and services are... operating at a higher ratio of capacity utilisation." But the fundamentals of the economy could be better, and still lacking is the recovery of investment.

Investments are needed to sustain economic growth and create new jobs, and export expansion also has limits unless accompanied by continued investment. But Jordan's financial situation does not allow for any jump in public expenditure, and so we are left talking about private money. But investments by the private sector have yet to materialise; entrepreneurs have not so far advanced to take up

the opportunities opened up by the shift towards local production and by Jordan's competitiveness in export markets. There are of course many factors contributing to the negative mood of the private sector and its hesitation, but sentiment can shift as soon as it becomes evident that stability has arrived. Decisions to invest in Jordan in big projects are still taken by the public sector or with strong public sector involvement. There are a few exceptions, but in general big companies in Jordan are either public sector-controlled or have a strong government representation on their boards. This means that decisions are sometimes made on a non-economic basis. Strategic factors play a key role in such a process. But these factors themselves are subject to

strong change. Therefore even if economic or commercial reasons exist for investment, a strategic decision may be taken against such a move. And the strategic outlook for Jordan is still clouded, with tension in the region very high.

On the economic front, Jordan is executing a medium term adjustment programme to address the structural weaknesses in the budget as well as balance of payments; and to facilitate the achievement of sustainable growth. The major objectives to be attained during the 1990-1993 period include restoration and steady recovery of economic growth to about 4 per cent by 1991, a lowering of the inflation rate to less than 7 per cent by 1993, and the elimination of the external current

account deficit by the same year. Jordan has a good infrastructure and relatively well-trained labour, and the substantial depreciation of the dinar while maintaining the level of wages almost constant has certainly improved competitiveness and enhanced the incentives for the business community. But so far, capital has been cautious.

The government is called upon to help potential investors, but not much has been done. This requires stability, without which investors do not come forth. For example, people are not sure what the exchange rate policy is. The Central Bank prefers to keep its options open. That may be convenient for the bank, but it creates uncertainty, and does not help investment. The Ministry of Finance talks

about reform of the tax system, but businessmen still don't know what to expect. The government is serious about influencing the flow of imports and exports in order to reduce the foreign exchange gap, however people have little idea of what incentives and penalties it will use to achieve this, not to mention their timing. And so it goes. Jordan's long-term future is bright, but over the short run confidence and stability need to be restored. The elections have ruffled a few feathers, but their overall effect has been to strengthen people's faith in the regime. It remains to be seen how skilled the latter will be in its economic management.

Riad Al Khouri is an economic consultant



'Bus attack threatens Mideast peace prospects'

By John Fulkerton
Reuter

CAIRO — The killing of eight Israeli tourists and two Egyptian security men by masked gunmen on Sunday threatens both Egypt's stability and its attempts to bring about lasting peace between Jews and Palestinians.

Political and diplomatic observers said they believed the attack on a tourist bus near Cairo was deliberately aimed at derailing an already precarious Middle East peace process.

They said the killings jeopardised plans for a meeting of Israeli, Egyptian and U.S. foreign ministers in Europe next week to finalise preparations for the first Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in Cairo.

It also challenged Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's attempts at home to balance political freedoms with a need to keep at bay Muslim militants eager to achieve power by fomenting rebellion against the largely secular government.

Six hours after the grenade and machinegun ambush on the Cairo-Ismailiya road, an anony-

mous caller told an international news agency that a hitherto unknown faction was responsible.

Speaking classical Arabic with an Egyptian accent and ending a brief statement with the words "God is great", the caller said the Organisation for the Oppressed in Egypt's prisons wanted to punish the government for harsh treatment of Muslim dissidents.

It was the fifth and worst recorded assault on Israeli tourists in Egypt since 1984, when an Israeli embassy attack was gunned down by leftist guerrillas in Cairo.

A statement from Mubarak's office said eight Israelis were killed and 17 injured, while hospital workers said two Egyptian guards escorting the Israeli tourists to Cairo also died.

The 61-year-old Egyptian leader moved quickly to limit any damage to a 10-year-old peace treaty with Israel by telephoning Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to tell him that Middle East peace was needed more than ever.

Israeli officials said Shamir replied that first everything must be done to prevent terrorism in

order to achieve peace.

The attack could not have come at a worse time for Shamir who faces a showdown with hardliners in the right-wing Likud party opposed to his plans for Palestinian elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The attack has plunged Israel into mourning, and a rightist backlash against peace moves seemed inevitable.

A Cairo-based diplomat said the attack seemed aimed at killing whatever was left of the peace process.

Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told Israeli television diplomatic progress was impossible until what he called centres of terrorism were eradicated.

Israeli security sources said they believed the killings were the work of Palestinian radicals opposed to PLO leader Yasser Arafat's drive to engage Israel in direct talks.

For its part, Egypt has long faced a challenge from a broad range of fundamentalist and leftist groups, some of which operate clandestinely and advocate violence to topple the state.

Plenty of bullets but not enough food in Kajo Kaji

By Robert Powell
Reuter

KAJO KAJI, Sudan — Glimmering bullets carpet the abandoned trenches of Kajo Kaji, but there is no food to spare for 20,000 refugees from southern Sudan's civil war.

The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army seized Kajo Kaji, a small town set amid rolling plains of tall grass dotted with mango trees, on January 6 after a fierce battle.

Since then the focus of fighting has moved 120 kilometres west to Yei, where a mechanised division of the Sudanese army was holding out against an SPLA siege.

Government-controlled newspapers in Khartoum said on Feb. 1 that the army had broken rebel sieges at Yei and at the southern regional capital Juba by driving the SPLA from positions around the towns.

Martin Okeruk, the SPLA's civilian administrator in Kajo Kaji, says most of the 20,000 displaced people in his district have come from Yei, which was abandoned by its civilian population two weeks ago.

"At first those who arrive are absorbed into the homes of their relatives who share with them the little they have," Okeruk told Reuters.

During a brief visit, this correspondent did not see large numbers of destitute people without shelter. But food is running out and Okeruk said there was no provision to house those without relatives nearby.

Egil Hagen, the director of the Norwegian People's Aid Programme in southern Sudan, flew in on Jan. 31 to assess needs and make arrangements for a food convoy to reach the town from Uganda.

The Norwegians have been

quietly trucking food and medicine into rebel-held areas of southern Sudan from Kenya since 1986.

The convoys bring 300 tonnes a week which is distributed by the SPLA's relief wing, the Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Association.

Hagen, a former major in the Norwegian army who has been running relief supplies into areas of conflict for 10 years, is proud that his trucking operation kept going through last year's rainy season, when the United Nations resorted to airlifts.

"Each Hercules from Entebbe costs \$20,000 and each of our trucks, which carries the same amount of food, costs \$2,000, one tenth of the cost," Hagen told Reuters.

His group kept delivering when most agencies were grounded by the Sudanese government. "No food apart from what we have delivered has gone into the SPLA-held areas since the beginning of November when the government stopped flights," Hagen said.

Hagen himself ignored the flight ban and continued to make clandestine trips to distribution centres.

Until now the Norwegian trucks have crossed into Sudan from Kenya to supply towns east of the Nile. Kajo Kaji is west of the river and the SPLA has no ferries, so Hagen is planning a new truck route through Uganda.

The SPLA has been fighting a bush war since 1983 to end what it sees as the domination of mainly Christian and animist southern Sudan by the mostly Arab, Muslim north.

It made steady advances on the west bank of the Nile in January. SPLA commanders predict an all-out attack on Juba before the

April rains. Okeruk said the immediate relief needs were basic foodstuffs such as maize, beans, oil, salt and cooking utensils.

Medicines and staff are also needed to reopen a bullet-scarred hospital closed four years ago.

The hospital has been stripped of all its furniture and a few displaced people have camped in its empty wards. A rusting X-ray table sits outside in the shade of a mango tree.

SPLA fighters wearing scraps of uniforms captured from the Sudanese army wander round Kajo Kaji's scattered buildings with AK-47 rifles slung casually across their shoulders.

Peasant farmers living in round thatched huts tend their fields of maize, millet and sorghum, apparently unconcerned.

The army barracks on the other side of the town's rough airstrip has been reduced to a litter of burned huts and twisted corrugated iron sheeting.

Thousands of rounds of live ammunition litter the trenches around the barracks, abandoned by the fleeing government troops. A heavy mortar remains stuck in its holster.

The head of SPLA forces in Kajo Kaji, alternate commander Dau Manyok, strugs his shoulders and says: "We haven't got a vehicle to move it yet."

Dau, who sports a fine pair of boots captured from the Sudanese army, has to move around on foot like everyone else in Kajo Kaji. The nearest car is in Uganda more than 30 kilometres away.

SPLA officers said 76 government soldiers were killed in the battle on January 6 and the rest of the 370-man garrison fled to Juba. The rebels lost seven dead, they added.

Bush troop cut offer seen helping European treaty

By Patrick Worsnip
Reuter

LONDON — U.S. President George Bush's new proposal for radical troop cuts in Europe should help East and West in their rush for a force reduction treaty before fresh political changes overtake them, Western analysts said.

Negotiators at the conventional forces in Europe (CFE) talks in Vienna have been saying they hope to have a pact ready by later this year. But they are still apart on several issues, including permitted numbers of NATO and Warsaw Pact servicemen.

Bush's proposals in his state of the union address on Jan. 31 to lower the ceilings for U.S. and Soviet forces in Europe could ease Moscow's position and make the deadline easier to achieve, experts said.

This would aid European stability in a fast-moving situation where the front-line states of East and West Germany appear headed for some kind of reunification and ethnic turmoil in the Soviet Union has worried some Western leaders, they said.

"If we reduce (forces) to manageable, it would be to the benefit of whatever other changes take place in Europe," a Western diplomat said.

Bush proposed slashing the previous NATO offer — limiting U.S. troops in Western Europe to 275,000 (from about 305,000 now) and 275,000 Soviet troops in Eastern Europe — to 195,000 troops apiece in the so-called central zone.

"Bush proposed slashing the previous NATO offer — limiting U.S. troops in Western Europe to 275,000 (from about 305,000 now) and 275,000 Soviet troops in Eastern Europe — to 195,000 troops apiece in the so-called central zone."

In addition, the United States would be allowed a total of 30,000 other troops in four countries further from the front lines — Britain, Italy, Greece and Turkey. There is apparently no provision for a Soviet deployment, outside its own territory, to match these.

Experts said that under the old proposal, even though Moscow has between 565,000 and 575,000 troops in Eastern Europe it might ultimately have had problems deploying as many as 275,000 because of pressure from its allies to withdraw.

Already Czechoslovakia and Hungary have begun talks with the Soviets on pulling out all Soviet troops from their territory.

Colonel Andrew Duncan of the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London said the new proposal should appeal to all parties.

"It will enable the Russians to be softer on the Hungarians and Czechoslovaks, (the U.S.) Congress should approve because it reduces U.S. commitments overseas, and the Europeans will say if it is done in the context of CFE, that will suit them," he said.

The Bush plan drew an initial favourable response both from NATO, whose Secretary-General Manfred Woerner said it had broad support in the alliance, and from Soviet spokesman Gennady Gerasimov, who called it a step in the right direction.

Western diplomats said they did not think the proposals would mean fundamental revisions of NATO strategy.

"If you're talking about forward defence, it's still do-able," one said.

Forward defence means defending Western Europe at its borders with the East, instead of allowing Warsaw Pact forces to penetrate and then counter-attacking.

Bush's proposals do nothing, however, to ease the technical problems of the conventional forces talks. Officials in Vienna, who have not agreed even on the definition of some weapons systems involved, have already complained that this is one of the most complicated negotiations ever undertaken.

Nor is any official keen to predict what second-stage negotiations following a conventional forces treaty would look like, as the almost daily shifts in the political map of Europe cast doubt on the future of both Western and Eastern alliances.

Western experts said there appeared little future for the Warsaw Pact in its present role as the East European countries reject Communism and move psychologically into the Western camp, even though still anchored militarily and politically to Moscow.

NATO too seems headed for change but many members want a continued U.S. military presence in Western Europe. Britain has already been stressing that the troop cuts proposed by Bush are the last envisaged by Washington.

LETTERS

Please God, not individuals

To the Editor:

YOU published one of your letters "Freedom of choice" by Claire de la Plume, Jan. 25-26, giving her voice to her opinion concerning the serving of alcoholic beverages on Royal Jordanian.

Claire is entitled to her opinion. Would you please be kind enough to now give me, as a Muslim, the chance to express mine, concerning the same matter?

Royal Jordanian is my favourite airline. Although American, I feel much more at home on Royal Jordanian than any other airline.

RJ pilots are extremely well-qualified and sophisticated. Their flights are smooth and dignified. The service I have experienced on overseas flights from Amman to New York is superb. Each time I fly with Royal Jordanian I am proud of the Jordanians because they are educated, intelligent and as clever as any other people in the world.

But, I am not proud when a Jordanian tries to imitate Western bad habits.

A national airline is an unofficial ambassador that flies from one country to another. Since Jordan is predominantly Muslim then it should not only be flying as a Jordanian ambassador but also as an ambassador of Islam.

If other "foreign carriers" do not have this "handicap" of not serving alcohol on their flights, that is their concern.

I do not believe that RJ appeals to various "multitudes of nationalities" merely by the service of alcohol. Indeed, this is a hindrance not an advantage, for we must be what we are, not try to imitate non-Islamic peoples. Imitation of bad morals is a decaying cavity within Jordan.

Imitate education, technology, science and political freedom within the confines of Islam, but do not imitate bad morals or those activities that are "haram."

Perhaps the profits of RJ would be greatly increased by deleting the service of alcoholic beverages for it is God who provides us, and I am sure that by being more Islamic we might become more prosperous as well.

As for those poor passengers that must make a boring "dry" flight without the enhancement of alcohol, perhaps it would be good for them. They could instead read, visit or just look out the airplane window with a clear mind instead of a foggy one and as soon as they reach their destinations they could again indulge themselves in whatever forms of entertainment they choose.

If there can be an enforcement of non-smoking on short internal flights within the U.S. why not then prohibit alcohol on all Jordanian flights? Drinking is bad for the health as well as dangerous to other passengers. Have you ever seen anyone drunk on a plane? They are often loud and rude.

Democracy should not mean the freedom of participation by all Jordanians in harmful activities, but an encouragement and growth of beneficial advancements.

I think Jordan is the best country in the Middle East. I will become even more proud of those talented Jordanians who work for RJ if the sale of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.

The term "democracy" has been so over-used by so many who fear denial of many pleasures. But democracy is a working force, not to be confused with the freedom of the pursuit of evil. When the two come to have the same meaning, then beware, for God's wrath is ever near and in the end it is God who we must seek to please not individuals merely seeking physical gratifications that are indeed against Islam and God.

E. Yaghi

27 artists exhibit at Spanish Cultural Centre

By Nelly Leana
Special to the Jordan Times

THE Spanish Cultural Centre is the venue of an exhibition, *Jordanian Artists 1990*, which is being held for the fourth time.

To read the number of names on the invitation card would make one wonder whether there would be space enough for all. Fortunately, the centre was efficient, the works were well adapted, there was ample space for circulation among the sculptures, ceramic works and paintings.

On entering the exhibition one encounters the work of Yusef Al Badawi, abstract compositions of flat shapes, tinted and hazy all around, circumscribing a group of stylised figures that assume new colour intensities.

Mahmoud Taha's ceramic creations have a more or less Chinese character, what with the elongated, rounded, and repeated triangular and circular shapes. Most of them bear rows of linear designs and repeated triangular decorations. An amphora bears a motif, derived from antiquity, of maidens holding hands. One of his jars is a gigantic flattened sphere with handles that are perfectly circular in harmony with the general shape. This jar was given a small base and small rim that form, along with the hint of calligraphy in the centre, a strong vertical movement.

Mama Shamonki's work strikes us with the openness of a snow-covered landscape. Beautiful groupings of houses form an embracing shape moving tectonically into the centre, while the wide, flat landscape pulls one's eye away out into the distant horizon. One can witness a good "rational" behind this composition. The colour harmony offers beautiful subtleties of tone. Groups of trees form a prancing rhythm around the canvas that allows the eye to roam around it without straining Shamonki's second work depicts an evening view of the Mount of Olives where the colours are perfectly

relevant to the subject. Rhythmic trees, Diana's insignia, walk slightly out of step with the calm evening mood. The drama of the sunset colours almost bridge the gap.

Rasad Minal offers one work which is not his best: a muddy rendering of house-like blocks, a window within each square. An attempt at abstraction? His second painting of a vase with flowers shows a good mixing of colours and a better awareness of volumes.

Sabakat Rashdan offers a turbulent work with intense colours, an impasto reiteration of a flat and subtle Persian miniature, depicting deer prancing around a hilly landscape. Her textured style reminds us of the work of Soutine.

Hafie Kama, has a slightly cubistic style incorporating a medley of raw coloured shapes whose haphazard outlines depart from the shapes creating an aimless movement.

Jamil Irake's work is quite painterly, i.e. vehement brushstrokes are more obvious than the actual subject. He uses intense colours that seem to submerge subtle ones below. The eye enters his work gradually through this fugue in order to reach the figurative volumes in the distance. There is no coordination or solid harmony between the two effects (flying brushstrokes and volumes).

Mahmoud Haghighi's abstract work with intense colours, a snow-covered landscape. Beautiful groupings of houses form an embracing shape moving tectonically into the centre, while the wide, flat landscape pulls one's eye away out into the distant horizon. One can witness a good "rational" behind this composition.

Kerem Nisari displays a "twisted" wooden sculpture, where the undulating shapes oblige the viewer to travel along with their complicated, twisting both inwards and outwards at the same time. The major diagonal surge outward is inconsistent with the subject "WAITING" which conveys a rather static state. His

"Dancing figure" with its endless curvilinear bears good witness to the subject although the rough texture of the outer surface obscures the savoury of the movement.

Najwa Kaseh, presents a number of ceramic curves reminiscent of Ivans, vaulted halls that serve as entrances to the "four-ivan" mosque style. She gives them different dimensions and textures, keeping the natural state of the clay or offering a burnt version of it. At times she superimposes floral decorations whereas in others, she penetrates into the surface forming a four work, a simple reminder of Moghul interior.

Abdul Naser Oudi works in the manner of Dia' Al Azzawi, the renowned Iraqi painter. He places a large form in space and cuts it with juxtaposed shapes, lines, circles and squares rendered in a variety of colours. Here the shape is rather massed and the eye is left fixed to the tumult of shapes above the horizon instead of circulating. He does better with the more tinted, subtler fillings in his next work which is slightly better balanced.

Jamil Ashour returns with his cut-out canvases and his lilac and purple rendering of the state of woman, emancipated vis-a-vis conservative. A semi-nude with dangling hair appears at the peak, horizontally painted, as if it was not yet a reality. Mountains of drapery roll down in an intense fugue creating a vertigo of forms, drowning below it the conservative woman, omnipresent in his other works, absent in this case. The canvas, probably conceived horizontally in the first place, stands majestically vertical, bearing witness to his strong appeal for the liberation of woman. The parts that are torn out of his canvas enhance the good structure of such a difficult composition.

Khaled Khreis departs from his earlier dark compositions into a more subtle yet strong rendering. A softness of colour, a strength of

line, spontaneity, layering of over and underpainting all create his areal style contrasted to his former more physical matteriest style.

Margaret Tadros offers a large range of styles in her ceramic productions. High vertical shapes folded into a cone, others low and tapered, or completely flat. A great variety is also seen in both the visual and tactile texture. Pockets and protrusions often stick out of the major forms. A flat dish with an oval cavetto beam great harmony between the concentric oval striations of the glaze and the curvilinear outer shape of the rim. The smooth tactile texture enhances the savoury even further.

Saba Shuman offers a work that overpowers you with its strength. Its volumes acquire a violent diagonal surge upwards. Then, suddenly, a blade-like shape in intense orange cuts its way through, coming speedily forward, making the viewer step back to amazement. Such monumental strength is rare in art works and should be pointed out.

Kamel Kasher performs surrealism on canvas. He cuts through the canvas (visually), imitating a tear. The top side of the tear bears witness to the real world, to life, while that which appears below bears witness to the spiritual world, death. One is rendered in bright lively colours while the other is of hazy blue. He even paints an image of the back of the canvas where the spirit world is concerned, a matter of positive and negative. This same duality reappears in the subject of a red poppy, very much alive, oozing its way out of a broken jar; life coming out of death. A man whose arms and legs are bound in barbed wire appears in the next painting with the same rendering of a torn canvas. An anatomical analysis of his figure shows his muscles in tension as he wrecks with pain, and his muscles at rest as he stands vertically in the spiritual

world.

Larissa Najjar returns with her cubistic sandstone carvings. Flat surfaces bear flat rendering of facial features. The general shapes tilt sideways, surge upward, or lie still.

Ma'mun Dubian, presents slabs of antiquated wood hammered together and bearing painted image of Jerusalem; red strokes are telltale of the bloodshed. A lock, old metal tools, blades and sharp objects overlap the wood. If anything, the work is highly expressive.

On entering the third room one is awed by the monumental work of Princess Wijdan Ali, which stands in the centre of the wall, flanked by two subtle monochromatic landscapes. At first one feels it is a minimalist painting and gradually takes head of the subtle development of colour tones from green to brown and gently on to yellow at the top creating an open space that could remind you of the interminable distance of the desert. The vertical knife-work creates subtle striations that work as a scum to depart from one colour and enter into the other.

Yusef Al Badawi, best known for his textured rendering, formulates a monochromatic composition with good perspective that he calls "through a rocky passage" and it shows just that.

Ghade Dababneh surprised us with darker more intense colours than are usual in her work. She uses a number of media, crayons, watercolours, etc. In her painting, one witnesses an outburst which exists from a monumental rectangle while alternating rhythms step up in the empty space beside it. Another painting, rendered in purple with hints of domes in the background, sends us into the exotic world of Gustave Moreau.

After a long absence, Ufemia Risk presents a composition in blue with an areal atmosphere that reminds us of the first foggy moments of sunshine over the mountains beside the Jordan Val-

ley. A mystic rendering of light, sudden surges of light rays, subtleties of tone and value contribute to the savoury of the work.

Nawal Al Abdallah exhibits two abstract works where a variety of lines, colour intensities, shapes and brushstrokes are juxtaposed by black lines jetting out in different directions, often slashed into triangles or broken up into intermittent rectangular shapes. A strong black frame with white matting accentuates their strength.

Nabila Elhadi comes to us with her fresh compositions of soft watercolour patches, intensely coloured strips of collage along with vivid sketching of figures all scattered on a pure white background that leaves her interesting work very light and informal.

Abdel Kasef Shamon follows. His typical use of intense blue reappears, carrying forms that seem to sit in a hurdle way down at the bottom of the canvas restricting the eye down there. A smaller painting shows a better structure and is slightly more meaningful compositionally.

Nisam Al Nasser works with ink around watercolour. His abstract designs are lyrical in nature. A twisted umbilical cord in black and white reaches a fetus with a uterus. This curvilinear solid mass is recalled by a subtle repetition of the movement in the background. Torn tents in soft colours are stretched out by black ropes. The sunshine of hope comes out from behind the overlapping shapes while darkness seems to dissipate at the corners.

Finally Rafik Laham's design work appears. The format is divided into flat orange rectangles, some incorporate Arabic calligraphy, architectural motifs, Islamic interface designs etc. Only on rare occasions does he depart from the flat rendering to freer brushstrokes at the centre of some rectangles. He, nevertheless, never penetrates beyond the surface.

The exhibition runs until Feb. 17.



West German Minister of Development Aid Jürgen Warnke inspects an agricultural project in Kenya.

Bonn provides more help for Third World

By Manfred Neuber

BONN (INP) — The economic support being given by the Federal Republic of Germany to the GDR and other countries in Eastern Europe, which are desirous of reform, will not be at the expense of German development aid for the countries of the Third World. This assurance was given by Jürgen Warnke, Federal Minister of Economic Cooperation, in an interview with IN-Press: on the contrary, partner countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America are to continue to receive the same high level of allocations by Bonn in 1990.

The new development aid budget, for instance, is to be increased to DM 7.2 billion. Compared with the previous year, this represents a growth of 2.8 per cent. The influx of capital from former loans to developing countries, as well as additional funds for German aid to Poland and Hungary constitutes an increased rate of as much as 3.9 per cent. This growth is therefore clearly above the federal budget's average increase of 3 per cent.

In the new budget, the German Bundestag has initially earmarked development aid to the tune of DM 55 million for Poland and Hungary. DM 10 million of this figure is planned for concrete projects this year; the remaining DM 45 million will be made available in the following years. As Minister Warnke stated, the development aid budget is not to be used as a sort of "quarry" for new, financial requirements.

He drew the following conclusion from the libertarian developments in Central and Eastern Europe as far as the Third World is concerned: "Not only bureaucratic state-control of the economy but also the power monopoly of corrupt, elitist groups prevent development and lead to economic and political disaster."

Q: Mr. Minister, what are your objectives as you enter the new decade? Are there to be any shifts of emphasis, content-wise or regionally, in German development policy?

A: In the 1990s, the Federal Republic of Germany will continue to be one of the world's major donors of development aid. Our level of development aid is increasing by almost 10 per cent in 1990. Here, too, we are underscoring the fact that our development assistance is in no way being reduced because of the help

which has now become necessary for Eastern Europe and the other part of Germany. The main points of emphasis in the 1990s will be cooperation in the worldwide protection of the environment and the global war on drugs.

In future, German development aid will be aimed increasingly at creating favourable framework conditions, especially free enterprise elements in the economic pattern of developing countries. We shall continue to pursue this objective, confirmed by the events in Eastern Europe, which have shown us that state socialism, undemocratic forms of government and society, and systematic violation of human rights, can seriously impair economic development.

With the support of handicraft and industrial organisations, we shall continue the promotion of self-help organisations among the population — for the development of democratic institutions and effective, local financial and taxation systems.

Q: Could you describe the present situation in regard to the efforts being made to observe environmental compatibility in development aid projects?

A: Within bilateral development cooperation in 1989/90, a total of DM 1.5 billion was devoted to environmental measures. The main points of emphasis are reforestation and protection of the rain forests, help in the development, expansion and management of water supplies and the disposal of waste. We are now trying to arrange a conference of the major donor countries in the first quarter of the new year to achieve better coordination of cooperation in this sector.

Q: To what extent is German development aid also serving economic interests? Compared with other leading, industrialised nations, the Federal Republic of Germany is exercising a relatively large measure of restraint in this connection.

A: German development aid is designed to help partners in the Third World. Our industry has to finance and expand its sales through competitiveness — not through development aid. Even so, we support the view that the services, which other countries offer, often with subsidies, should not result in a situation where, for example, Japanese industry is being promoted by German development aid. This is why we are in favour of open tenders.

Records no longer feeling groovy

By Catherine Arnet
Reuter

LONDON — "American comic Rita Rudner always gets a sympathetic laugh when she says: 'I just can't bring myself to buy a CD player until I have something in writing to say that's the last thing they're going to invent.'"

But a majority of the world's music lovers have succumbed to the lure of the latest invention, with the result that 45s and LPs will soon be as archaic as 78s.

Sales of compact discs outstripped vinyl records in most of the world's major music markets last year. Industry experts expect no new music releases on old-fashioned grooved records by the mid-1990s, and possibly sooner. The 45 RPM single that brought music to the masses for some 30 years is already becoming a dinosaur in Japan, the United States and Britain, the countries where 70 per cent of the world's \$15 billion worth of recorded music is sold each year.

What was the province of aficionados only four years ago is now found in cars, personal stereos and of course, homes. Compact discs offer listeners a crystal clear digital recording played by a laser that never wears

out, they are easy to care for and store, and sound as good as the 1,000th playing as the first.

The newest chart topper in the United States, Ronette's "Listen to Your Heart", became the first single to hit number one without being released as a 45. Pop music fans snapped up the recording on either single cassettes, that play two songs on a continuous loop, or tiny single CDs, also with two songs.

Lack of interest in 45s has led the Warner Brothers records empire in the United States, one of the world's five dominant music companies, to say it will stop production of all 45s this year.

CBS-Sony announced a year ago that it would end the manufacture of all vinyl records, including 45s, in Japan, where CDs outsell vinyl by nine to one.

Polygram, Britain's largest record distributor, has been more cautious, saying that it will phase out all vinyl, including 45s, by the end of the decade.

But the British public has already committed the 45 to the dustheap. The British phonographic industry has just announced that, for the first time, 45s in December accounted for less than half of all singles sold,

overtaken by cassette and CD singles.

Long playing records are sure to follow. Worldwide sales of LPs fell almost 10 per cent in 1989, to 460 million units, while compact discs rose 37.5 per cent to 530 million, according to the International Federation of the Phonographic Industry.

The Recording Industry Association of America said that in the first half of 1989 LPs shipped in the United States were outnumbered 12 to one by cassettes and nearly six to one by CDs. This despite the fact that only an estimated 19 per cent of U.S. homes have a CD player.

In Japan, where CD penetration is more like 40 per cent, records fell to 5.1 per cent of total combined CD and record output last year, down from 25.5 per cent in 1988.

There are still some pockets of loyalty to vinyl, notably France. "But there really is no question that vinyl is dying," said Terri Anderson, a spokeswoman for Thorn EMI's music division.

EMI has a huge investment in record factories around the world, and so is not about to announce the end of vinyl, but Anderson said the company will

"rationalise operations" over time.

Even the high price of CDs — \$15 in the States, around \$20 in Europe — does not seem to affect the demand for CDs, said Anderson, as sales rise even when prices are increased.

"People's expectations of sound quality are raised by what is available," said Anderson. "They no longer are willing to settle for inferior recordings."

But before Rudner and her friends decide it is finally safe to buy a CD player, they should know that the format is about to be challenged by two new technologies, digital audio tape and erasable compact disc.

DAT and CDE, as those in the know like to call them, offer music-lovers the quality of digital sound with the added cachet of the ability to record.

DAT players will be widely available in the United States and Europe by this summer, but at a price of more than \$1,000.

But, like all new gadgets, industry experts expect the price to drop to an affordable level in only a few years. Soon after that, analog cassettes are expected to join vinyl records in the on-off print bins of record shops.

Egypt hunts assailants

(Continued from page 1)

which said the recording had been provided by members in Lebanon.

"I am an ordinary person who has the right to express his views and ... to struggle," the man reading the statement said.

Al Quds Radio earlier claimed responsibility for the attack on behalf of a group called Islamic Jihad.

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine said it opposed the killing of civilians, whatever their nationality.

But the group said in a statement it held Shamir responsible for the bus attack because of his hardline policies.

The spiritual leader of Egypt's fundamentalists described the bus attack as a heinous crime and said the country's Islamic militants would not carry out such an

operation.

"Perfidious crimes are not of our nature," said Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, a blind preacher and spiritual leader of the outlawed Jamaa Al Islamiya (Islamic Group).

"I don't think the Islamic groups in Egypt would carry out such an attack. It is not in their plan and it is not in their behaviour," he told Reuters.

The U.S. State Department said the attack was an "outrageous act" designed to halt efforts towards reconciliation and dialogue between Arabs and Israelis.

President George Bush called Shamir to express his sorrow and Baker relayed a similar message in calls to the Israeli and Egyptian foreign ministers, department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler said.

Palestinians

(Continued from page 1)

peace process was the main cause of extremism and killing on both sides.

Ghassan Al Khatib, a Communist Arab academic, said: "I and three quarters of this (Palestinian) people do not feel happy when anybody in the world is killed."

However, Khatib said the Israeli government's intransigence on peace efforts was to blame for the continued violence.

"I believe that those responsible for the bloodshed are those who have been obstructing the peace process — the Israeli government and (Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir in particular," he told Reuters.

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Mexico and commercial banks sign debt reduction agreement

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Commercial creditor banks and Mexico, which owes more than any other developing country except Brazil, signed a debt reduction agreement Sunday that was hailed as a product of the government's economic reforms and model for other indebted nations.

"Mexico stands as a beacon of hope for other debtor nations," U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady said in a speech at the signing ceremony.

"It is very important to have the first transaction completed but we do see it as only the beginning," he told reporters afterward.

Officials of the 15 banks making up the advisory committee that negotiated the agreement for about 450 banks signed the accord in the ceremony in a patio of the national palace. The other banks will sign in New York.

The renegotiation covers the \$48.5 billion of Mexico's foreign debt held by the commercial banks. The total debt March 31 will be \$93.6 billion, Mexico's Treasury Secretary Pedro Aspe said. It is the second highest in the developing world, after Brazil's \$114 billion.

"The renegotiation of the debt is sufficient for Mexico" and will lead to growth and better conditions for Mexicans, President Carlos Salinas De Gortari said.

"In Mexico, renewing growth is not only an economic objective, it is above all a social imperative to respond to the demands of the more than 85 million Mexicans of today and the 10 million more who will join us during the six years of my administration," he added.

Salinas took office Dec. 1, 1988, six years into an economic crisis provoked by overborrowing and plunging prices for crude oil, the country's main export.

In a sweeping programme to reform the heavily-protected economy, Salinas has opened the country to competition from exports, encouraged foreign and domestic investment, begun selling a wide array of state-owned companies to the private sector and is slashing subsidies.

The reforms, Brady said, "have made the biggest difference, have made the commercial banks want to be part of the agreement that was signed today and I think will lead the way to voluntary lending from here on out."

The banks chose from three options: Reducing principal by 35 per cent, reducing interest to a fixed rate of 6.25 per cent or offering new loans equal to 25 per cent of the Mexican debt they

already held.

Principal reductions account for \$20 billion of the renegotiated debt, interest reductions for \$22.5 billion and new loans for \$6 billion. The remaining debt from the first two options will be exchanged for Mexican government bonds backed by U.S. Treasury bonds.

A \$7 billion package of multi-lateral and Japanese credits and Mexican funds will help Mexico purchase the U.S. bonds and guarantee the first 18 months of interest on them.

But, after absorbing the debt reductions, banks are considered unlikely to be willing to lend Mexico more than the \$6 billion. Aspe said the agreement will save Mexico an average \$4.1 billion annually in net transfers abroad in the next four years. The figure includes \$1.6 billion in interest; an average influx of \$288 million a year in new credits, and the deferment of principal payments of \$2.2 billion.

The country has been paying about \$12 billion a year in interest and principal.

Brady said it was "of extraordinary significance" that "\$42 billion of debt payments will be forever removed from the backs of the Mexican people."

"The effect of the agreement that was just signed goes beyond the frontiers of this country, since it will serve as an example for the other countries affected by the problem of debt," said Michel Camdessus, director of the International Monetary Fund.

"Debt reduction — a short time ago you couldn't talk of this," he added.

Other countries in line for Brady plan renegotiations have not gone as far as Mexico in undertaking reforms. Venezuela has begun a programme, but negotiations of about \$21 billion of its \$34.6 billion foreign debt have made little headway.

Argentina, which owes about \$64 billion to commercial banks, is in a "very difficult situation," but Argentine President Carlos Menem has said he will undertake reforms, Brady said.

Brazil was \$4.4 billion behind in interest payments to private foreign creditors in December and Argentina has about \$4 billion in interest overdue.

Brazil is refusing to pay, saying it wants to pass the government to President-elect Fernando Collor de Mello in March with a safe level of reserves.

Banks also have negotiated agreements on the smaller debts of Costa Rica and the Philippines under the Brady plan.

Bahrain restricts foreign labour

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain, heavily dependent on expatriate labour but seeking more jobs for its own young people, has announced restrictions on the number of foreigners which private firms can recruit.

Labour ministry officials have said that 15 per cent of any new recruits for private firms must in future be Bahrainis.

Labour Director Abdul Rahman Zayani said the directive was part of a plan aiming to double the percentage of Bahrainis working in the private sector to 50 per cent by mid-1994.

The government has made employment of nationals a top priority in the 1990s to help reduce an estimated unemployment rate of eight to ten per cent and find places for growing numbers of young people entering the workforce.

Labour ministry officials have targeted 20,000 jobs in 720 firms which could be filled by Bahrainis. The companies were asked last June to comply over the next five years.

The jobs range from senior managers to drivers and waiters. Zayani said 27 companies had asked the government to modify the programme and their requests were being considered.

The 15 per cent recruitment target did not apply to replacements for expatriates now employed by the firms, he said.

Arab Union International Insurance hikes net profit

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Despite economic hardships which, among many manifestations, resulted in a lower volume of imports, Arab Union International Insurance Co. succeeded in raising its 1988/1989 net profit by 11.6 per cent to JD 239,205 from JD 214,333 recorded in the previous year.

The gross premium income written by all departments rose by 12 per cent to JD 853,196 during the year which started Oct. 1, 1988 and ended Sept. 30, 1989. During the previous year (Oct. 1987-Sept. 30, 1988) the gross premium income amounted to JD 762,121.

Motor insurance business topped earnings by other departments as it reached JD 504,892 compared to JD 458,089 in the preceding year. However, the net profit in this sector amounted only to JD 133,492 because JD 186,342 in claims were paid and other end of period reserves for outstanding claims and unexpired risks were high at nearly JD 580,000 in addition to the Motor Vehicles Department. Share of general and administrative expenses which amounted to JD 85,539 out of a total JD 983,624 revenue.

Total revenue of the marine department amounted to JD 170,485 after earning JD 210,377 in written premiums. However, the net profit, after various deductions of paid claims, reserves, expenses and allowances, stood at JD 40,223. The written premiums and the net profit were JD 161,072 and JD 30,517 respectively in the 1987-1988 period.

The fire insurance department registered a net profit of JD 24,640 noting that written pre-

Chicago Board of Trade signs accord with China

BEIJING (AP) — The Chicago Board of Trade has signed a memo of understanding on helping China prepare for setting up the socialist world's first agricultural futures market.

Under the memo signed with the Research Institute of Commerce, an organ of the commerce ministry, the Chicago Board of Trade is to provide educational assistance on futures markets.

The ministry agreed to introduce Chinese agricultural enterprises to the board and the China National Cereals Trade Corporation will prepare to participate in futures trading in Chicago.

"In China approximately 65 million tons of agricultural commodities circulate in the free market each year and are therefore subject to price risk," said William Grossman, vice president and managing director of the board's Asia-Pacific office in Tokyo. "As a result, the conditions are ripe to learn about futures trading."

A futures market allows traders and producers to negotiate a set price for what they think a commodity will be worth at a future date. The seller is guaranteed that price regardless of subsequent fluctuations.

Most of the 400 million tons of grain Chinese farmers produce annually is contracted to the state at a set price.

Panel calls for overhaul of Swiss securities trading

BERNE (R) — Switzerland needs a drastic overhaul of its securities markets to make trading more transparent and create a national stock exchange watchdog, a finance ministry-sponsored report has said.

The document, prepared by a 13-member panel from the public and private sectors, also called for a federal law to regulate investment brokers and financial advisers.

But it added that early legislation to revise Swiss securities trading was a more pressing priority.

The finance ministry said it was seeking comment on the proposals and would submit its recommendations to the government on how to proceed by the end of April.

The panel report said the federal securities law it foresaw would protect investors, improve liquidity and transparency in the market and bring Switzerland more in line with norms of market regulation in European Community and other major industrial nations.

Switzerland must eventually move toward a unified bourse, the panel said, suggesting existing plans for nationwide electronic bourse would serve the country well as long as all banks had the chance to take part in the network.

It found Swiss bourses face a special need to improve their image abroad, where they are seen as secretive, discriminatory against foreigners and ruled by cartel agreements among Swiss members.

Even if Switzerland shifts market regulation from individual cantons to a national agency, it must also regulate brokers and financial advisers, it added.

"Because Switzerland has no comprehensive regulation and supervision of financial markets, dubious financial jugglers are encouraged to operate out of Switzerland," it said.

The panel's recommendations are broadly in line with changes endorsed by Swiss National Bank President Markus Lusser and Finance Minister Otto Stich. The Association of Swiss Bourses and the Swiss Bankers Association have also said already they would support national legislation along those lines.

Iraqi oil reserves top 100b barrels

BAGHDAD (AP) — Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi said estimated Iraqi oil reserves now exceed 100 billion barrels following new discoveries in various parts of the country, a magazine has reported.

Al Chalabi was quoted by the weekly Alif Bas as saying the new estimates show reserves in Iraq could exceed by far the previous estimate of 100 billion barrels, released two years ago.

"Our seismological studies and discoveries have given irrefutable evidence that the oil reserves are much higher than what we knew before," he said.

Al Chalabi, however, did not give a precise figure for the new estimate, which he said resulted from an intensive exploration programme aimed at increasing Iraq's proven reserves.

He said Iraq will remain committed to its OPEC quota of 3.14 million barrels a day and will not exceed it despite a significant increase in its export capacity, after opening a new pipeline through Saudi Arabia last year.

Iraq has redoubled its export capacity since the end of hostilities in the Gulf war in August 1988 and is now able to export five million barrels per day, Al Chalabi said.

Pakistan reports success in attracting investment

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan is having considerable success with its policy of attracting foreign investment through a liberal business climate, the chief economic adviser to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto says.

"It takes a little time but I think that is a paying dividend," Vaseem Aon Jafary said in a weekend interview. "We have reached the stage where there is a lot of interest in investing in Pakistan."

Bhutto's 14-month-old government sees foreign equity investment as a sound way of cutting Pakistan's external debt of around \$18 billion, which was built up to fund persistent budget and trade deficits.

"We are hopeful of getting foreign investment as a way of reducing indebtedness and promoting trade," said Jafary, who has ministerial rank. "Our model is going to be Thailand rather than India."

Pakistan's giant neighbour India has maintained a much tighter grip on the type and extent of foreign investment, thought it too has liberalised its rules in recent years.

Foreigners accounted for about 53 per cent of the 91 billion rupees (\$4.3 billion) in projects approved by Pakistan in the 13 months to December, according to the Investment Promotion Bureau.

Pakistan bans foreign investment in a few areas like real estate, and licences investment in others such as banking. But most industrial sectors are largely unrestricted and foreign firms can own up to 100 per cent of Pakistani subsidiaries.

The local economy, strongly dependent on sales of primary and semi-processed commodities, is vulnerable to world price changes and must attract much more industry, Jafary said.

But increasing lawlessness in the southern province of Sind, where 40 per cent of industry is located, is a powerful disincentive. More than half of new investment is now going to more peaceful Punjab.

Jafary said he was under no illusions that Pakistan would see an economic miracle overnight. The main thrust of economic policy is to cut the deficits and institute reforms under a framework laid down by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Pakistan went to the IMF in 1988 and agreed on a three-year economic reform programme in return for \$877 million in loans. Bhutto's government endorsed the programme when she took power in December 1988.

IMF conditions — cuts in the budget deficit and inflation, sustained economic growth and lower current account deficits — are broadly in line with government objectives, Jafary said.

Pakistan failed to meet its targets in the fiscal year to June 1989, particularly the obligation to cut the budget deficit from a peak of 8.6 per cent of gross

domestic product to 6.5 per cent. It managed 7.1 per cent.

But Luis De Azcarate, the World Bank's top official in Pakistan, said the IMF approved the first year's progress in December. "Overall the fund found that they had done fairly well," he said.

Economists say reducing the budget deficit is the key to Pakistan's medium-term problems, but in the long term the biggest threat is its ballooning population.

The population, now 110 million, is set to double by 2010 and triple by 2025 if each woman continues to have six babies. The government recognises the problem but has made little headway in dealing with it, Jafary said.

Pakistan has raised energy prices and cut subsidies on some commodities to meet conditions imposed by the IMF, but the country has avoided the civil strife associated with similar reforms elsewhere.

"Our feeling is that if you can administer this in small doses, then you can get away with it," Jafary said. "If we get a good heat crop then we have a good chance of keeping everybody happy."

A poor wheat crop in 1988 forced up imports and was partly responsible for a record current account deficit of \$2 billion in 1988/89, up from \$1.7 billion in 1987/88.

Jafary forecast the deficit would end this fiscal year at about the same level or slightly higher.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES			
Monday, February 5, 1990			
Central Bank official rates			
U.S. dollar	Buy	Sell	
Pound Sterling	699.0	665.0	
Deutsche mark	1113.6	1124.7	
Swiss franc	351.1	307.0	
	444.3	448.7	
French franc	115.7	116.9	
Japanese yen (for 100)	32.7	47.2	
Dutch guilder	348.4	331.9	
Swedish crown	107.6	108.7	
Italian lira (for 100)	52.9	53.4	
Belgian franc (for 100)	187.5	189.4	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES			
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.			
One Sterling	1.6910/20	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.1870/80	Canadian dollar	
	1.6780/87	Deutsche marks	
	1.8935/45	Dutch guilders	
	1.4865/75	Swiss francs	
	35.06/10	Belgian francs	
	5.7000/50	French francs	
	1246/1247	Italian lire	
	145.55/65	Japanese yen	
	6.1150/1550	Swedish crown	
	6.4775/4825	Norwegian crowns	
	6.4835/85	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	418.60/419.10	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS	
SYDNEY — The market drifted in a narrow range to a weaker close in the absence of solid leads from overseas. The All Ordinaries Index fell 2.5 to 1,666.8.	
TOKYO — Shares barely budged through a day of scant trade and closed mixed in the light of slipping bond prices, a listless yen and political uncertainty. The Nikkei Index fell 18.74 to 37,631.41.	
HONG KONG — Share prices closed firmer on bargain-hunting, particularly from local investors. The Hang Seng index rose 20.12 to 2,756.67.	
SINGAPORE — The Straits Times Industrial Index jumped 27.10 to close at a record high of 1,576.23. Trading was hectic with total turnover soaring to a record 242.0 million shares.	
FRANKFURT — The market continued its recent rally, with prices soaring nearly two per cent to new highs amid growing signs that German economic reunification could come before year-end. The Dax index hit a record 1,944.75 around mid-session before slipping on scattered profit-taking to close at 1,939.43, up 28.76.	
ZURICH — Stocks closed firm but activity slowed after a lively opening and most shares ended below the day's highs. The SPI index was up 9.9 at 1,131.6.	
PARIS — Prices ended narrowly firmer after failing to build on early gains. The CAC-40 index ended 1.44 points up at 1,926.14.	
LONDON — Shares remained weak towards the close in very dull trading. But prices recovered from their lows following Wall Street's modest early rise. At 1555 GMT the FTSE 100 index was down 5.7 at 2,349.4.	
NEW YORK — Wall Street was slightly higher at midday, lifted by carry-over buying from Friday. But interest was muted by apprehension about the treasury's quarterly refunding, due to start Tuesday. The Dow was up four at 2,607 at midday.	

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SASIB

ECTAN

TABBIR

FATOLA

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: "O O O O O O O O O O"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: TOON KAPO CAUGHT GRIMLY

Answer: Sometimes when the players do the running, the farm do this — THE KICKING

Peanuts

Mutt'n' Jeff

Andy Capp

FOR INSANCE, HE

King promises stars for Tyson-Douglas bout

TOKYO (AP) — Boxing promoter Don King Monday promised a star-studded audience for next week's Mike Tyson-James Douglas heavyweight championship bout, but out in the stands ticket sales remain slow.

King said U.S. real estate tycoon Donald Trump and his wife would arrive in their private jet on Thursday, bringing super-entertainer Michael Jackson with them.

Members of the Rolling Stones, here on a concert tour, also have expressed a desire to see the fight, he said in a statement.

King said top contender Evander Holyfield would arrive in Tokyo on Thursday, and super-middleweight champion Sugar Ray Leonard would follow later in the week.

"Iron Mike," at 23 the youngest heavyweight champion ever, and Holyfield have agreed to fight on June 18 if Tyson defeats Douglas on Sunday.

For the Tyson-Douglas bout at the Tokyo Dome, only the expensive tickets are selling well.

"The golden seats" are almost all sold, but tickets for seats in the stands are not selling well at all," he said, requesting anonymity. He refused to comment on how many seats have been sold, or why sales are slow.

He said there will be 2,000 "golden seats," priced at \$150,000 each (\$1,035 each).

Though seating at the dome, used mostly for professional baseball games, is normally arranged to accommodate about 56,000 spectators, the official said 63,000 seats will be available.

DAVIS CUP:

Cane beats Wilander to put Sweden out

The Associated Press

SWEDEN'S seven-year run to the Davis Cup final hinges on a single set and Mats Wilander, who has played the best and worst tennis of his career in the past 1½ years.

The deciding singles battle between Wilander and Italy's Paolo Canale was tied at two sets apiece Sunday when it was suspended because of darkness. It is scheduled to be completed on Monday.

Italy came into the final day of the best-of-five matches competition at Cagliari, Sardinia, needing only one more victory to pull off an opening round upset of Sweden.

Jonas Svensson dropped the first set to Omar Camporese, then came roaring back to keep Sweden's hopes alive. Svensson's 6-7 (2-7), 6-1, 6-3, 6-1 victory over Camporese tied the match at 2-2 and brought the competition down to the final singles between Cane and Wilander.

Cane, cheered on by the home fans, won the first set 6-4. Wilander the next two — 6-3, 6-4 — and the Italian the fourth set 7-5 when the match was called.

Sweden, a Davis Cup finalist every year since 1983, was playing without Stefan Edberg, who was injured in the final of the Australian Open.

Defending Davis Cup champion West Germany also was missing a key player — Boris Becker. But the Germans defeated the Netherlands, even though the Dutch won both of Sunday's singles.

West Germany had built an unbeatable 3-0 lead before Tom Nijssen defeated Davis Cup rookie Michael Stich 7-6 (7-5),

6-1 and teammate Michael Schnapars beat Eric Jelen 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

Other first-round winners in the 16-nation World Cup are Argentina, New Zealand, Australia, Czechoslovakia, the United States and Austria.

In the second round, to be played March 30-April 1, West Germany will play Argentina, New Zealand will play Australia, the United States will play Czechoslovakia and Austria will play the Sweden-Italy winner.

In Carlsbad, California, the United States defeated Mexico 4-0 in competition cut short by rain.

Brad Gilbert defeated Jorge Lozano 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 in a match out to best-of-three sets since the outcome had already been determined. Jay Berger then led Mexico's Enrique Hernandez, who was substituting for Leonard Lavalle, 6-4, 1-2 when bad weather forced a halt in play and the captains decided to halt the competition.

In Barcelona, Spain, Thomas Muster beat Sergio Bruggara 7-5, 6-1, 7-6 (7-2) to clinch Austria's first-round victory. Spain's top player, Emilio Sanchez, then defeated Horst Skoff 6-3, 6-3 to make the final score 3-2, Austria.

In Perth, Australia, Wally Masur beat Henri Leconte of France 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 2-6, 6-4 and gave Australia an unbeatable 3-1 lead. Yannick Noah of France then beat Darren Cahill 6-4, 6-4.

New Zealand defeated Yugoslavia 3-2 in competition that ended on Saturday.

Czechoslovakia, playing at home in Prague, crushed Switzerland 5-0. In Sunday's reverse singles, Miloslav Mecir defeated Marc Rosset 6-7 (5-7), 6-1, 6-3 and Milan Srejber stopped Jakob Hasek 3-6, 6-4, 7-5.

Lineker scores three; Tottenham blanks Norwich

LONDON (AP) — Gary Lineker scored three goals as Tottenham blanked Norwich 4-0 in Sunday's only game in the first division of the English Soccer League, allowing Spurs to climb five places in the standings.

Lineker, the English international striker who moved to Tottenham this season from Barcelona, Spain, gave the hosts the lead in the 25th minute and scored twice in the second half — the last

time on a 63rd-minute penalty kick.

David Howells scored the other goal as Spurs recorded their biggest victory of the season and Norwich, which has given up 11 goals in its last four games, crashed to its most lopsided defeat of the campaign.

The three goals brought Lineker's total for the season to 18, one behind division leader David Platt of Aston Villa.

BRITISH LADIES OF AMMAN

Morning meeting — Wednesday Feb. 7
Amra Hotel - 10 a.m.
Afternoon meeting — Wednesday Feb. 14
Amra Hotel - 4 p.m.

EUROPEAN SOCCER:

AC turns its defeat into victory

Reuter

AC Milan coach Arrigo Sacchi is used to watching his team bear the heat but even he was stunned when they staged a remarkable recovery from two goals down to beat Fiorentina 3-2 in an Italian league soccer match on Sunday.

Showing the stuff that made them European and World Club champions, Milan turned the match around in 11 minutes of the second half with one goal from Alberigo Evani and two from the penalty spot by Dutchman Marco van Basten.

For the first time at Milan I thought "if we get a draw I'll be happy," Sacchi said after the match.

"Then there was that masterful quarter of an hour... We're made like that. It's part of our mentality."

Rising star Roberto Baggio had put Fiorentina in front from the penalty spot in the first half and then set up the second for Czechoslovak Lubos Kubik just after the interval.

The result left Milan three points behind league leaders Napoli, who won 3-0 at home to Cremonese, at the start of a week that could take them to the top of the league.

Milan recoup a game in hand against bottom club Verona on Wednesday and then play Napoli at home on Sunday.

"That is the match that will probably decide the title," Argentine World Cup captain Diego Maradona said of the Sunday clash after scoring twice in Napoli's victory.

The two clubs are favorites for the title in a race reminiscent of the 1987-88 season when Milan beat Napoli 3-2 with two games to go and went on to win the championship.

"I don't agree with people who say it's an important match but not decisive. For me it really is decisive," said Maradona, showing a return to fitness ahead of the World Cup finals.

Milan, unruffled by the long-term absence of Dutch international Ruud Gullit, have reaped

23 points from their last 12 league games and Van Basten, European footballer of the year, has scored seven goals in his last four matches.

In Belgium, champions Mechelen, who play AC Milan in next month's European Cup quarter-finals, suffered their first defeat of the season, losing 3-0 at Bruges who now head the standings.

Spanish champions Real Madrid dropped their first home point of the season, drawing 1-1 with Real Mallorca on Sunday in a match that saw leading scorer Hugo Sanchez sent off.

The Mexican striker said he hoped Real would appeal on his behalf but was silent on allegations that he taunted Mallorca's Moroccan international keeper Badou Ezaki with racist comments: "I don't want to answer, what I do is play football."

Real Madrid stayed six points clear at the top after nearest rivals Barcelona and Atletico Madrid both lost.

The duel between French leaders Bordeaux and champions Marseille resumed on Sunday after a seven-week winter break. Both clubs had to settle for 1-1 draws at St. Etienne and Montpellier respectively.

The Dutch title race looks like becoming the traditional fight between champions PSV Eindhoven and Ajax after a sparkling performance by the Amsterdam team at the weekend.

Ajax, boosted by leaders PSV's 3-1 defeat at second-placed Roda JC, surged to a 4-0 victory at home against FC Twente, leapfrogging their opponents into third place.

But the dressing room discord continued at PSV. Newspapers claimed midfielder Gerald Vanenburg told PSV manager Kees Ploegman that he did not think much of striker Wim Kieft.

Vanenburg, who won a career-long contract with PSV last year, has made it clear that he prefers playing with newly acquired Danish striker Flemming Povlsen.

NBA ROUNDUP:

Pistons hold Utah to its lowest point total

The Associated Press

76ers 105, Bucks 102

MILWAUKEE — Derek Smith converted a three-point play with 25 seconds left and Ron Anderson made four free throws in the closing seconds Sunday as the Philadelphia 76ers held off the Milwaukee Bucks 105-102 for their 11th straight victory.

The 76ers, on their longest winning streak since 1984-85 when they won 13 straight, played with a limping Charles Barkley, who injured a groin in the

first quarter but still finished with 14 points. They also lost Rick Mahorn, who was ejected with nine minutes left in the third quarter.

Pistons 115, Jazz 83

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan — The Detroit Pistons held Utah to its lowest point total of the season Sunday, beating the Jazz 115-83 for their seventh straight victory.

The loss was only the second in 13 games for the Jazz, who dropped into a first-place tie with San Antonio in the Midwest division. The victory increased Detroit's

lead to four games over second-place Chicago in the central division.

Warriors 105, Timberwolves 95

MINNEAPOLIS — Chris Mullin scored 18 points and led a second-quarter surge as Golden State won its fourth straight. Randy Brener scored a career-high 40 points for expansion Minnesota, which had its longest winning streak stopped at three.

Golden state, leading 31-30, outscored the Timberwolves 30-10 in the second quarter. Mullin

Golden State shot 61 per cent to 26 per cent for Minnesota. Tim Hardaway had 21 points and Mitch Richmond 20 for Golden State.

Nuggets 125, Hawks 113

DENVER — Pat Lever scored 12 of his 18 points in the third quarter and Denver outscored Atlanta 19-6 to begin the second half in sending the Hawks to their fifth straight defeat.

Michael Adams had 27 points. Walter Davis 24 and Alex English 18 as Denver withstood a three-man offensive barrage by the Hawks.

Colombia continues WC programme despite threat

MIAMI (AP) — The Colombian Soccer Federation announced a "work recess" for the national team starting Monday in the wake of vague threats against its players, their families and team officials.

The threats, made by a group saying it wants to clean up Colombian soccer, earlier prompted the team's coach to say he might resign.

Colombia's game Sunday against the United States in the Marlboro Cup of Miami took place as scheduled. Two of the players named in the threats played in the game.

No upcoming matches involving Colombia were cancelled, and preparations will continue for the troubled nation's first World Cup appearance in 28 years this June in July, the soccer federation said in a statement Sunday.

The work recess, in fact, was on the players' original schedule,

said Leon Londono, president of the federation.

"After (Monday), they will go home to be with their families for a few days and then go back to work," Londono said. "All the previous plans are still on."

The work recess was announced Sunday, Londono said, "to calm down the people, the media and whoever else would be directly involved."

Several killings in Colombia have been linked to soccer in recent years. The murder of a referee led to the cancellation of last year's national championship.

Coach Francisco Maturana said he'll visit with authorities in Colombia after the team arrives home Monday. Maturana said if he is not comfortable about the situation, he'll resign.

The group that issued the threats Friday alleged that the national team includes players

from league teams controlled by drug cartels. The group demanded that Maturana not allow such players on the national team.

"These people want to run the team for me," Maturana said Saturday. "I can't allow that."

In the past there have been allegations and some evidence of links between league teams and drug barons, but no team has been penalized because of them.

Little is known about the group issuing the threats, which identified itself as "the group to clean up Colombian soccer."

The national radio network Caracol received the threats, and their existence was confirmed by the newspaper El Tiempo.

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THE Daily Crossword by Diana C. Babbitt

ACROSS

1. A supper
2. Antipode
3. Red letters
4. Package
5. Baiting
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7. Contender
8. FL. marehead
9. River
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S. Africa to keep schools segregated Pretoria does not have much time to free Mandela — Tutu

CAPE TOWN (R) — The South African government plans big improvements in education for blacks, using defence funds saved by Namibian independence, but will not scrap segregated schooling, Education Minister Stoffel van der Merwe said Monday.

Van der Merwe, the white minister responsible for black education, told a news conference that cultural differences between blacks and whites made separate schools essential.

"Integration... would not be very acceptable at the moment in South Africa," he said.

Van der Merwe said Western economic sanctions against apartheid were the main reason for the government's failure to narrow the gap between white and black education.

black nationalist leader could be freed immediately but that a few weeks' delay would be acceptable.

"If he is not released within weeks of this particular announcement then the world knows how to react," Tutu said.

De Klerk, in a sweeping speech Friday, promised to free Mandela and ordered the lifting of a 30-year ban on the African National Congress (ANC), the nation's main opposition group of which Mandela is a founder.

Political analysts said Mandela's surprise rejection of immediate release was probably a bid to push De Klerk further down the path of apartheid reform.

"Mandela is trying to further the objective of getting the government to lift the state of emergency. Maybe this is additional leverage on the government," said Professor Mike Hough, political scientist at Pretoria University.

"Expectations are building up. If he has to, Mandela will wait in jail for a few more months," he added.

was going the way of white-dominated Rhodesia, now black-ruled Zimbabwe, he replied: "In Rhodesia the mistake was that the opportunity for constructive negotiation was not exploited. They waited too long. We are determined not to repeat that mistake."

ANC leaders, meeting at the weekend in Stockholm, said that further concessions from De Klerk were vital, including the removal of troops from South Africa's black townships and the complete lifting of emergency rule.

ANC leaders, saying their struggle is far from over, have urged friendly governments to keep up pressure on South Africa "until apartheid has been buried like Nazism."

E. German parliament approves consensus government

WEST BERLIN (AP) — East Germany's parliament Monday installed eight members of the pro-democracy opposition forces to Communist Premier Hans Modrow's government, the first time such an action has been taken in the country's 40-year history.

It was also the first time the Communists have held less than half the cabinet seats in the country's government.

Modrow told parliament East Germany needed a government of "national responsibility" to lead it away from the brink of economic disaster and toward free elections set for March 18.

Bush's defence budget lacks long-range vision

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush's new defence budget doesn't offer a long-range vision in a time of revolutionary change, but it gives some short-term clues about how Bush wants the military to prepare for the years to come.

The president made headlines with last week's proposal to strip hundreds of thousands of U.S. and Soviet troops from the European continent. But his \$292.1-billion budget proposal also reveals a conservative, take-it-slow approach in many areas.

The 1991 plan takes only tentative steps into a new era with a modest troop reduction of 38,000 in the coming year, cutbacks in about 20 minor conventional weapon programmes, and continued funding for several futuristic weapons systems from the Reagan administration, such as the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI), also known as "Star Wars."

such arms will be needed as the military force is reduced.

The army has argued that in an era of lessened superpower conflict in Europe, it now must prepare for Third World, low-intensity conflicts that require a lighter, more flexible force, as demonstrated in the Panama invasion.

Gen. Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, warned Congress last week the military spending must not be slashed while the calls for foreign-based troop withdrawals and tight budgets.

C8 LUMN

Shoplifter becomes first customer

ABU DHABI (R) — The first customer at a new supermarket in the United Arab Emirates was a shoplifter, a United Arab Emirates newspaper has said. The Al Bayan newspaper said an Indian man was arrested with several items hidden in his pockets at the shop in the city of Ras Al Khaimah.

Women jailed for uprooting trees

JAKARTA (R) — Ten middle-aged women who uprooted 16,600 small trees were sent to jail for obstructing Indonesia's national development, the Jakarta Post has said. The women claimed the company PT Inti Indorayon Utama was using traditional tribal land for its controversial eucalyptus pulp and rayon project. They began the trial singing hymns and ended it declaring: "We will appeal. We are prepared to be cut into pieces." The protesters were sentenced to six months in jail, fined 1,000 rupiah (55 cents) each and had their homes confiscated. The English-language daily said. The court returned three of the 16,600 trees to Indorayon, a company that earlier weathered a legal challenge from local ecologists who claim its factory is polluting north Sumatran rivers.

Costner, Close chosen man, woman of year

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts (AP) — Actor Kevin Costner and actress Glenn Close have been chosen as the Man and Woman of the Year by the Hasty Pudding Theatricals of Harvard, which annually honours impressive entertainers. Close will be given a parade through Harvard Square and will be presented with the traditional "pudding pot" at the Hasty Pudding Theatre on Feb. 13. Costner will receive his award at the premiere performance of the Hasty Pudding Theatricals' 142nd annual musical production, "Side Expectations," on Feb. 20. Hasty Pudding Publicity Manager Rebecca Markus said Costner, star of Field of Dreams and The Untouchables, was chosen for the independence and boldness he has shown in his selection of roles. Close was chosen for her versatility in playing everything from a self-sacrificing heroine in The Big Chill to the calculating Marquise de Merteuil in Dangerous Liaisons, Markus said.

Matlin would like to hear music

NEW YORK (AP) — Actress Marlee Matlin, who is deaf, says she would like to hear music or talk on the phone but does not mind not being able to hear "people talking nonsense" or "keeping horns." In fact, she says, "If I woke up one day and I became hearing, I think I would freak. I'm used to the silence. The quiet sounds. And that's what I like," she said in an interview with author-narrator Oliver Sacks in the February issue of Self magazine. Sacks' latest book, "Seeing Voices," explores how deaf people use sign language as a linguistic tool. Another Sacks book, Awakenings, is being made into a movie, starring Robin Williams and Robert De Niro. Sacks, whose next project will involve artists with neurological disabilities, asked Matlin if she thought her deafness gave her acting "a special quality." "I think my biggest advantage in some respects is to be deaf," Matlin said. "Because I can translate the art by seeing it instead of listening to it."

Talks on chemical arms ban to resume

GENEVA (R) — International efforts to scrap chemical weapons resume in Geneva Tuesday with most of the groundwork completed and agreement likely to be reached before the end of next year.

Negotiators from 40 nations have been holding two sessions a year for the past decade to achieve a comprehensive, global ban on chemical weapons.

Diplomats say the problems they face are greater than in other arms control areas because many countries have access to the technology for producing such weapons.

5 die in S. African unrest

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Five people, including a man tied to a tree by a mob and set alight, died in weekend violence in South Africa, police said Monday.

The rash of incidents, reported in a routine summary of politically motivated unrest, undermined the level of violence in South Africa remains high despite President F.W. de Klerk's reform initiatives announced last Friday.

Hong Kong denies illegally holding Vietnamese group

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong Monday denied claims by a group of Vietnamese boat people that they were being held illegally and prevented from sailing on to Japan.

Government refugee coordinator Mike Hanson said a group of 107 who sailed into Hong Kong waters in May last year could not have continued their voyage as they had wanted because their boat was in no condition to go on.

At that time Japan did not operate a screening policy and the Vietnamese claim they would have been accepted automatically as bona fide refugees.

Yeltsin: Gorbachev's days 'numbered'

MADRID (R) — Boris Yeltsin, the radical former politburo member, has said the Soviet people are fed up with Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev and his days are numbered unless he looks for radical allies.

"I believe his days are numbered if he does not ally with forces to his left... he is going through his worst period, his situation has really deteriorated," Yeltsin, the former Moscow Party chief, added: "Gorbachev... has never been able to say if he was with the left or with the right... in the Soviet Union we are fed up with Gorbachev."

Revolution could only be avoided by cutting military and space research budgets to improve the quality of life, he added.

He said Gorbachev had lost strength fighting nationalist conflicts and the economic crisis had reached a limit.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

N. Korea backs Moscow reforms

TOKYO (R) — North Korea, one of only a few countries still under hardline Communist rule, Monday voiced support for Moscow's effort to reform Communist-led politics. The official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), monitored here, said in a commentary: "The Soviet people are registering successes in their efforts to deepen perestroika for socialist restructuring and step up socio-economic development." KCNA said North Koreans rejoiced over the achievements of the "fraternal Soviet people."

NATO supports German unity

MUNICH (AP) — NATO General Secretary Manfred Woerner said Sunday the Western alliance supports German unity, but he warned that NATO would not accept threats to its existence. Woerner spoke at an annual conference of lawmakers, security experts and government officials from the NATO countries. One important message emerging from the two-day weeklong conference — including statements by U.S. National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft — is that German unity will come, but that a united Germany cannot be neutral. Woerner, a West German, said those who call for dissolving the Western alliance risk the "security and unity" of Germany and the rest of Europe. East Germany's Communist premier, Hans Modrow, last week unveiled a plan for gradual German unification but said Germany should be neutral. West Germany also wants unification but has rejected quitting the Western alliance.

3 injured in Kashmir clashes

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — Kashmiri separatists shot at two police bunkers during curfew relaxation Monday triggering an exchange of fire that injured at least three people, witnesses said. Two militants, their faces covered with scarves, jumped out of a lane in a congested residential district and opened fire with automatic rifles, according to witnesses who declined to be identified. One policeman was hurt in the firing and two bystanders were wounded when the troops returned fire, they said. The militants escaped into the maze of alleys after the attack. Simultaneously, another group of militants attacked a police bunker about 2 kilometres away, but there were no reports of injuries, other witnesses said.

Greek guerrillas steal bazookas

ATHENS (R) — A Greek guerrilla group Monday admitted stealing two bazookas rocket launchers from an Athens army museum last week. The extreme left-wing Nov. 17 organisation claimed responsibility for the raid in a lengthy letter to the Athens newspaper Epikrateia. Police sources said the document was genuine. The bazookas were stolen Saturday by five gunmen who held museum guards at gunpoint. Police said the weapons, made in 1940, could be used if modified properly. The November 17 group, which has killed 14 Greeks and Americans since 1975, said in the letter the bazookas were "in working condition."

Calderon ahead in Costa Rica elections

SAN JOSE (R) — Opposition leader Rafael Calderon Fournier took an early lead in Costa Rican presidential elections and a local television station projected he would be a narrow winner when all

the votes were counted. With about five per cent of the vote tallied, Calderon, the candidate of the Social Christian Unity Party, had a 2,000 vote lead over ruling National Liberation Party candidate Carlos Manuel Castillo, the television station reported. It said its projections showed Calderon, the 40-year-old son of a former president, would defeat Castillo by two per cent of the vote to become leader of Central America's longest-standing democracy. A spokesman from the ruling National Liberation Party, which has governed for eight years, however, said a party survey showed Castillo ahead by two per cent. The winner will succeed President Oscar Arias, who won the Nobel Peace Prize and focused international attention on this Central American nation of 2.6 million during his four-year term.

Aquino backs return of death penalty

MANILA (R) — Philippine President Corason Aquino, angered by the rape and violent murder of two children, says she wants the death penalty reinstated, four years after her government abolished it. Aquino urged swift passage of a law reviving capital punishment for heinous crimes after attending a service for Nikki Ann Noblez, 9, and her sister, Angeli Ann, 7, who were raped and bashed to death by a drug addict on Jan. 26. "We cannot afford another tragedy like this," Aquino said after viewing the bodies Sunday in the northern province of Pangasinan. The Aquino government did away with the death penalty when it rewrote the constitution in 1986, just after toppling then President Ferdinand Marcos. The abolition of the law stemmed from a national clamour for human rights following the Marcos regime's alleged widespread abuses.

Mao cult reviving in China

PEKING (R) — Chinese peasants rushing to buy portraits of Communist leaders have chosen the late Chairman Mao as their favourite pin-up, turning a relatively cold shoulder to Peking's current line up. The People's Daily said Monday the renewed adulation of Mao Tseung showed the unassailable supremacy of communism but did not explain why the peasants had plumped for Mao rather than current leaders. China's official press has so far not reported on talks among Soviet leaders about signing away the Communist Party's constitutional monopoly on power. "In China, there is no other political force that can supplant the leadership of the Socialist Party and there is no force that can split the masses from the party," said the newspaper in a front-page commentary. It lauded the revolutionary fervour of the peasants around Huailin in the southeastern province of Hunan who it said had been snapping up books by revolutionary luminaries and teaching Marxism and Maoist thought to 110 groups of primary-school pupils.

S. Korean student gets 10 years

SEOUL (R) — A South Korean student who made a publicised but illegal trip to North Korea last year was sentenced to 10 years in prison by a Seoul court Monday. In Su-Kyong, 21, wearing scarlet prison clothes, and her co-defendant, father Moon Kyu-Hyun, who was given an eight-year term, were sentenced under South Korea's stringent national security laws for their trip last July to a youth festival in Pyongyang. They were convicted of violating of South Korea's stringent national security laws which bar all unofficial contacts with North Korea.

Sinn Fein looks to pocketbook issues

DUBLIN (AP) — The Irish Republican Army's (IRA) political wing is looking to pocketbook issues from unemployment to water bills to rally more support for its goal of a united Ireland.



The Sinn Féin party leadership's report to the annual convention, which ended Sunday, stressed that ending British rule in Northern Ireland took precedence over "gas and water politics."

"The priorities for Sinn Féin in the year ahead are to develop and strengthen our party organisation, to improve our publicity output and to overcome the effects of censorship," party president Gerry Adams told the convention Saturday.

He added: "An essential part of this political offensive is active campaigning on relevant issues which affect people in their daily lives and putting our Republican analysis to their problems."

In other words, Sinn Féin will tell voters that the answer to poverty, unemployment and emigration is "Vote out."

Adams called for intensive efforts to make the same case in the Republic of Ireland.

"Gas and water politics" is nothing new for Sinn Féin, but it was highlighted instead of the criticism of the IRA heard at last year's conference.

Adams had complained that IRA killings of innocent civilians were hurting Sinn Féin, and called on the guerrillas to be "careful and careful again."

Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	WIND
AMSTERDAM	7	14	10
ATHENS	10	18	10
BANGKOK	22	30	10
BARRAN	15	22	10
BIRMINGHAM	10	18	10
BOMBAY	22	30	10
BUEENOS AIRES	10	18	10
CARRO	10	18	10
CHICAGO	-2	28	10
COLOMBO	22	30	10
FRANKFURT	10	18	10
HONG KONG	12	20	10
HOUSTON	10	18	10
JAKARTA	22	30	10
LONDON	10	18	10
LOS ANGELES	10	18	10
MADRID	10	18	10
MECCA	10	18	10
MONTREAL	10	18	10
MOSCOW	-1	20	10
NEW DELHI	22	30	10
NEW YORK	0	18	10
PARIS	10	18	10
ROME	10	18	10
SEATTLE	10	18	10
SHANGHAI	10	18	10
SINGAPORE	22	30	10
TOKYO	10	18	10
VIENNA	10	18	10